

MUHAMMAD ALI: THE GREATEST FIGHT OF HIS LIFE

HISTORY

REVEAL

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 32 // AUGUST 2016 // £4.50



ALFRED THE GREAT

The Anglo-Saxon king who held the Vikings at bay

THE MODERN OLYMPICS

Let the games recommence!

ALSO

LONDON'S GREAT STINK
WATERGATE SCANDAL
WWII BURMA CAMPAIGN
CHINA'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

KILLING CAESAR

The story behind Rome's most infamous assassination

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Welcome



As legendary historical figures go, it's hard to get much bigger than **Julius Caesar**. The man who **crossed the Rubicon** met his brutal end when he didn't heed a warning to **beware the ides of March**. His assassination was the result of a complex sequence

of events and factors, but the story is a gripping saga of power, revolution and rebellion – not to mention a string of **lovers, from rivals' wives to foreign queens**. The action begins to unfold on page 28.

Elsewhere, the sporting world contributes not one but two great features to this issue. Firstly, we remember the recently departed **Muhammad Ali's greatest fight** – which was against the United States, when he **refused to go to Vietnam** (p55). And secondly, with **the Rio games** right around the corner, we look back to 1896, when **the modern Olympic Games** were born (p38).

We also have the usual mix of battles, adventures and colourful characters – specifically, the Battle of Kohima, which became known as **the Stalingrad of the East** (p74);



And they're off! The 100m sprint at the first modern Olympics gets underway in Athens, 1896

Captain James Cook's **doomed voyage to New Zealand** (p48); and Alfred the Great, the **Anglo-Saxon king famed for burning cakes** (p63).

As ever, please do **write in** and tell us what you think of this edition. We love to hear from you.

Enjoy the issue!

Paul

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our September issue, on sale 18 August

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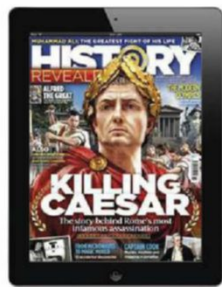


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Your key to the big stories...

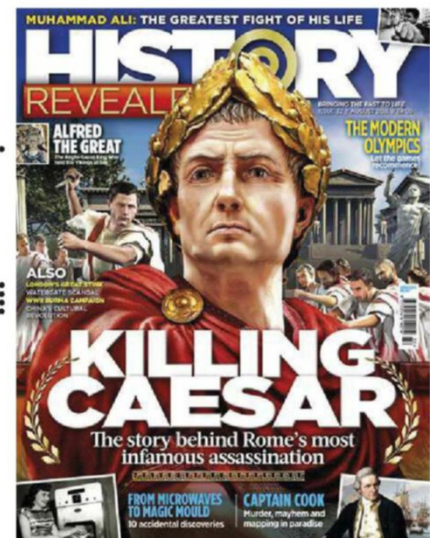
63

24

18

74

83



55

38

28

46

48

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

65

The number of miles driven by Bertha Benz in the first ever long-distance road trip. See page 16.

78

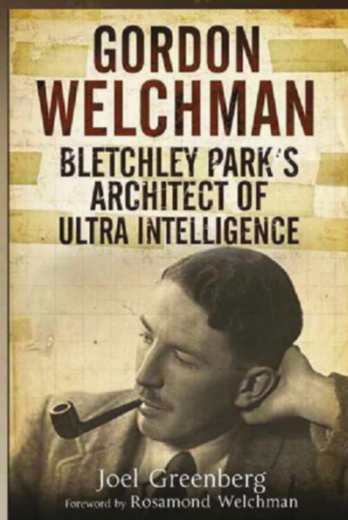
Muhammad Ali's IQ, which disqualified him from the draft before standards were lowered. "I said I was the greatest, not the smartest", he said. See page 55.

21

The number of birds shot by the winner of the gold medal in live pigeon shooting at the 1900 Olympics. See page 38.

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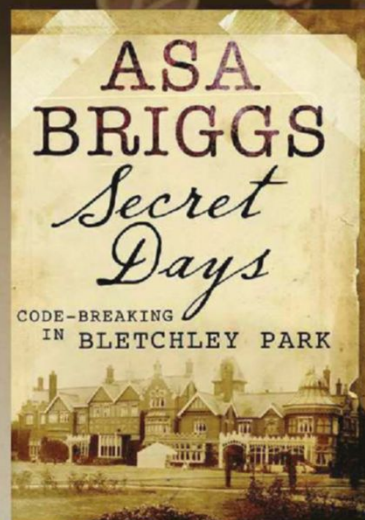
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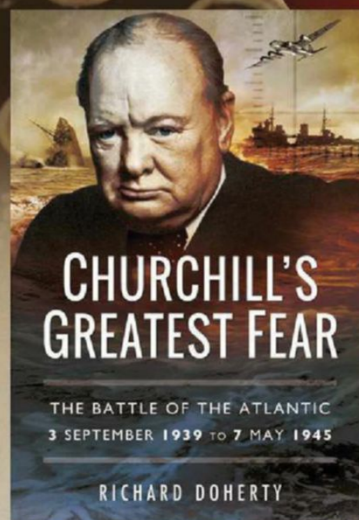
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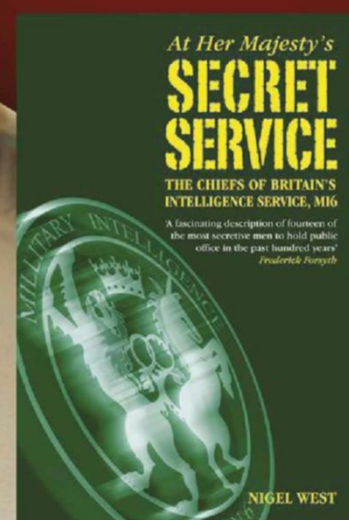
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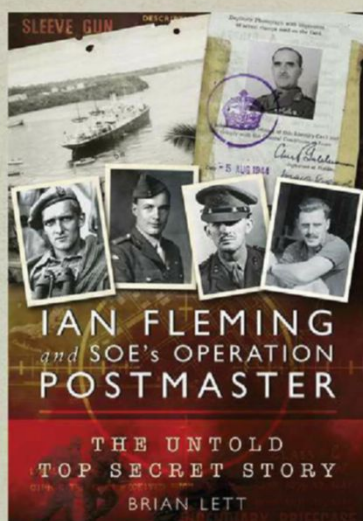
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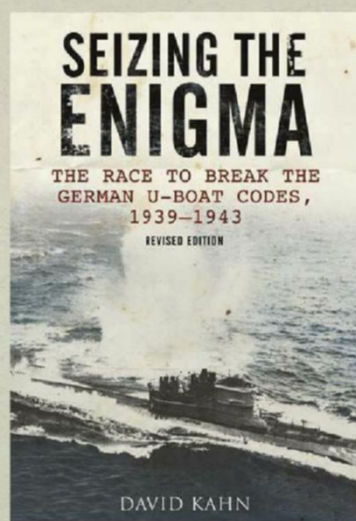
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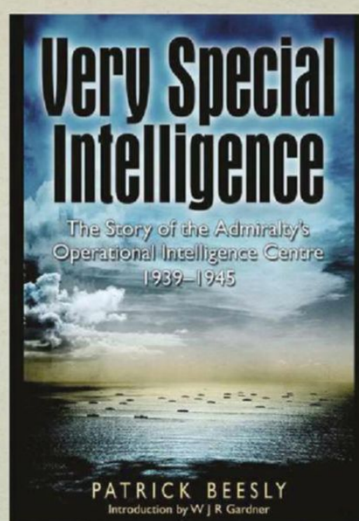
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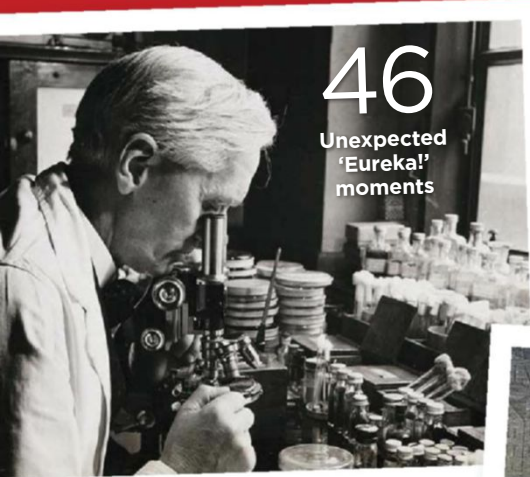


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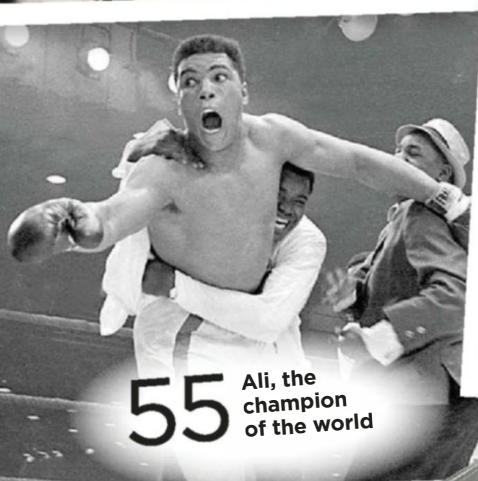
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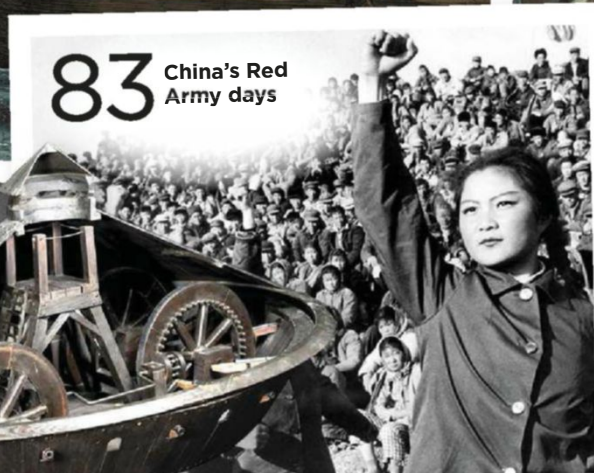
46
Unexpected
'Eureka!
moments



55 Ali, the
champion
of the world



24
Behold the
stinking Thames



83 China's Red
Army days



28
**JULIUS
CAESAR**
Conspiracy
to murder

88
Deciphering
da Vinci's code

TIME CAPSULE

Snapshots

Take a look at the big picturep10

I Read the News Today

August, through the agesp16

Yesterday's Papers

President Nixon is forced to resignp18

Graphic History

The birth of the scouting movement...p20

What Happened Next...

The rise of Solidarity in Polandp22

The Extraordinary Tale of...

London's great stink of 1858.....p24

LIKE IT? SUBSCRIBE!

More
subscription
details on
page 26



FEATURES

COVER STORY Killing Caesar

The brutal assassination of Julius Caesar is a tale of deception, power and revolutionp28

The Games Reborn

Athens, 1896, and the first modern Olympic Games are about to open ...p38

Top 10: Accidental Discoveries

From penicillin to Post-Its.....p46

Great Adventures: Captain James Cook

The celebrated English explorer met a sticky end in Hawaii.....p48

Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight

When the protesting pugilist refused the draft, he faced the fight of his life.....p55

History Makers: Alfred the Great

The legendary Anglo-Saxon kingp63

In Pictures: Margaret Bourke-White

Life photojournalist par excellencep68

Battlefield: Kohima

'The Stalingrad of the East'.....p74

Q&A

Ask the Experts

Your questions answered.....p81

In a Nutshell

China's Cultural Revolutionp83

How Did They do That?

Indonesia's Borobudur temple.....p84

HERE & NOW

On our Radar

Our pick of this month's exhibitions, events and entertainment.....p88

Britain's Treasures

Discover Liverpool's historic Albert Dock.....p90

Books

A look at the best new releases.....p92

EVERY ISSUE

Letters.....p7
Crossword.....p96
Next Issue.....p97
A-Z of Historyp98

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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

LETTER OF THE MONTH

BEACH LANDINGS – I WAS THERE

I am writing in response to a letter from Richard Summers about Operation Overlord (May 2016), who wrote about how visiting the five D-Day beaches while on holiday in France affected him. I was one of those who took part in

different regiments on the beachhead.

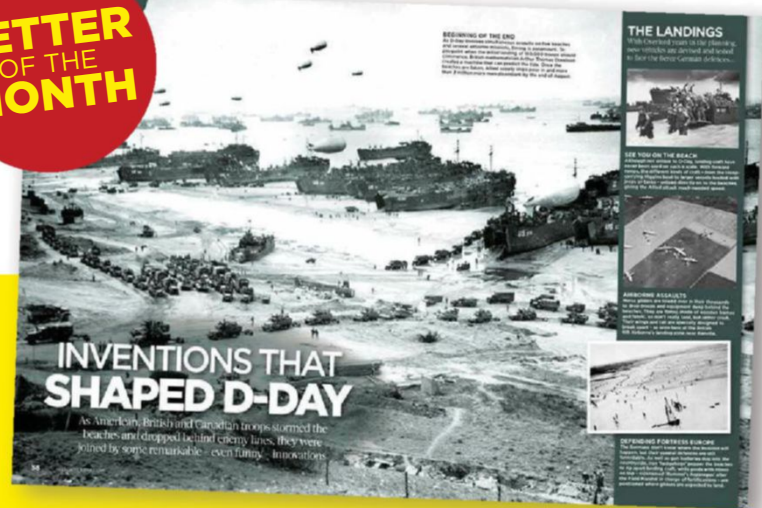
The events of that day are etched very clearly on my memory (I am nearly 92 years of age). I was fortunate to cross the beach unharmed, apart from some shrapnel in my leg. A few of my mates never made it.

Shortly after the landings, we

“I was fortunate to cross the beach unharmed, apart from some shrapnel in my leg. A few of my mates never made it”

Operation Overlord, landing on Gold Beach on Tuesday 6 June 1944. I was a wireless operator and member of a small unit whose job was to maintain temporary communications with the

were sent to Arromanches, where work had started in constructing Mulberry Harbour. After the disastrous defeat of Dunkirk, the effect of this operation was to bring freedom to France and liberate the capital – where



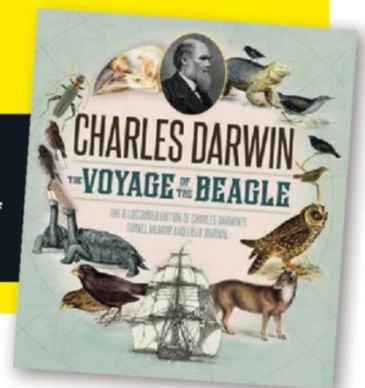
OPERATION OVERLORD

This was the code name for the Allied operation that launched the successful invasion of German-occupied Western Europe

previously Hitler and his Nazis had marched down the Champs-Élysées. It's interesting to note that eventually, the French president decided to award living veterans of Overlord with

France's highest honour, the Légion d'honneur.
Neville Henshall
Newry, Co Down

Neville wins an illustrated edition of *The Voyage of the Beagle* (£25, Zenith Press), Charles Darwin's field journal, which led to his most notable work, *On the Origin of Species*, considered to be the foundation of evolutionary biology.



f I have really enjoyed your article about the American Civil War. It's a period of history that I didn't know a great deal about. I have to find it a really helpful guide to a fascinating period. Keep up the brilliant work!
Christopher Rigby

RASPUTIN IS OVERRATED

The Romanov dynasty was falling apart with the mass corruption and inefficiency of the Russian Empire before WW1 even began (Rasputin,

June 2016). As the result of his only son being a haemophiliac, and without a healthy male heir to succeed him, the Tsar had a shaky throne. The Tsarina's increasingly desperate search for some sort of cure for her ailing son, no matter how scientifically far-fetched, must be where Rasputin sensed a big opportunity.

By 1900, medical science had advanced to the stage where haemophilia could be readily diagnosed and perhaps have

identified Queen Victoria as the original genetic source, even if no cure was available by 1917. It must have been readily obvious to most of the Tsar's doctors, staff, advisors and even the Tsar himself that Rasputin was a phony, but who would want to argue against the Tsarina's intense maternal anguish?

Rasputin was a political nobody and, while alive, served as a useful scapegoat. His appalling real and fictional habits usefully diverted attention away from the existing political realities. Without the Romanov haemophilia problem, Rasputin would likely have remained completely unknown on the rapidly crumbling Romanov scene. Rasputin may arguably

have speeded up the Romanov and Russian collapse, but the conditions for the political course of the Russian Revolution were there and, without Rasputin, the result would probably have been about the same.

James Wells MRINA
via email

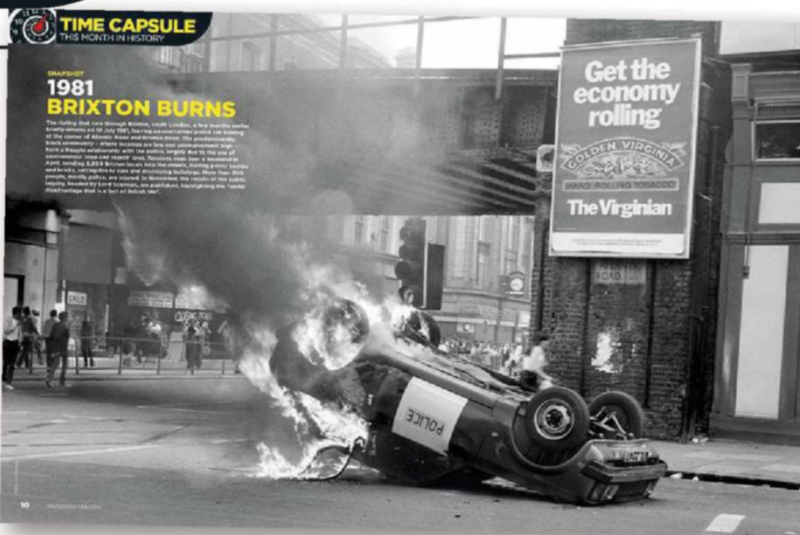
Twitter Fantastic article on Alice Marble, her life reads like a #Hollywood movie. One studio will get round to it.
@MovieManUK

MADMAN OR JUST MISUNDERSTOOD?

Rather than Rasputin, surely economic forces caused the Russian Revolution, with war losses as the trigger (Rasputin, June 2016). To give so much weight to a scandal in high society is to make the mistake the criminals – and they were

POLITICAL NOBODY
Was Rasputin merely an opportunist who unwittingly provided a distraction from the declining Romanov dynasty?





TIME CAPSULE
THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
1981
BRIXTON BURNS

< criminals – who carried out Rasputin’s botched murder made. I’d like to add that I suspect Rasputin was not ‘evil’ but suffering from bi-polar disorder.

Judith Mack
via email

TSARIST RUSSIA WAS DOOMED FOR DECADES

In response to the article on whether the Russian Revolution would have happened without Rasputin’s involvement (History Makers: Rasputin, June 2016). Yes, it would still have happened without him – he was merely one factor in the middle of economic, social and political crises.

Tsarist Russia faced large, persistent economic issues and had an elitist government that proved incapable of making real changes. Rasputin contributed to the falling faith in the monarchy, but this had been in effect for decades, preceding his prominence. This doesn’t mean the revolution was inevitable. With strong, composed leadership, which offered real reforms and a commitment to seeing them through, the population could have been appeased.

India Nathan
Via email

RIOTS REMEMBERED

The image of the burning police car in Brixton (Snapshots, July 2016) stirred up my memories of the riots of the early 1980s. My friends and I were doing our ‘O’ levels and there were similar scenes across the country always on the news – including Bristol, where I’m from – as well as Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. As we were preparing to enter adulthood, the high unemployment (remember UB40’s *One in Ten?*), violence and general unrest made the world

WHEN TENSIONS SNAPPED

Over a weekend in April in 1981, 5,000 Brixton residents took to the streets, largely in response to the controversial ‘stop and search’ laws

seem a very dark and negative place. Yet, we all managed to find our way. I just hope those who are young today don’t let recent events affect their appetite for life. It’s sad that we don’t seem to learn enough lessons from history though.

Stuart Johnston
Keynsham

Grateful to @HistoryRevMag for featuring @wanderersafc in the May 2016 issue #ProudtoWander @wanderersafc

BE MORE NELSON

I always enjoy your ‘I read the news today’ section and had to laugh at the ‘armless not harmless’ caption by the picture of Nelson (July 2016). I love the fact that 30 minutes after having his arm amputated, the Admiral of the Fleet was back in the middle of the fight, issuing orders to his men.

I think it’s a message that should be passed onto premiership footballers – the ones who always seem to be writhing

around in agony on the pitch for no good reason. Get up and get on with it like Horatio!

Kirsty Pocklington
Blackpool

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 30 are:
Ann Roberts, Herefordshire
B P Whitlock, Northamptonshire
Gwyn Davies, Greater Manchester Congratulations! You’ve each won a copy of *The Life of a Union Army Sharpshooter* by William G Andrews, published by Fonthill Media and worth £25. To test those little grey cells with this month’s crossword, turn to page 96.

Regarding your story on the Salem Witch Trails – such a tragic story, and what ill-thought-out scaremongering can do.
Patricia Homer

GET IN TOUCH

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I would love to see a piece on Canadian history - the French settlers, Confederation, Acadians, fur traders etc. We have a rich history that is usually ignored, which is a shame.
Amanda Larue

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20 September (1-2 pm)
‘A Copy of a Copy: Leek’s Replica of the Bayeux Tapestry’

18 October (1-2 pm)
‘The Relics of Battle Abbey’

22 November (1-2 pm)
‘Motherboards & Motherlodes’

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SNAPSHOT

1941 NANNY BAIT

Either nannies during World War II took extreme precautions to protect their charges, or something else is going on here. The pistol-packing woman is actually a man – all maid up, if you will – taking part in a drill by the Scottish Command home guards to test a soldier's readiness when confronted by a 'fifth columnist'. Under the threat of German invasion, there was a fear in Britain of home-grown enemies, the fifth column, subversively sabotaging the military effort. How they would bring down the nation pushing prams is anyone's guess. Still, best to be prepared.



TIME CAPSULE
AUGUST





SNAPSHOT

1949

MASTER MATISSE

He may be 79 and increasingly frail following cancer treatment, but the French artist Henri Matisse can still work at his studio in Nice. It's just that he needs a novel approach to complete his mural of St Dominic, intended for the Chapelle du Rosaire in nearby Vence – the most ambitious project of his career. The use of a long-handled brush allows Matisse to continue painting in bed, while also affording the opportunity to take a step back from his work, (several, in fact) and see the bigger picture.

© ROBERT CAPA © INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY/MAGNUM PHOTOS



TIME CAPSULE AUGUST





SNAPSHOT

1929 MAKING TRACKS

In 2015, Whitechapel was named and shamed as having the unhealthiest high street in London, due to an abundance of fast-food outlets, tanning salons, payday lenders and betting shops. In August 1929, the biggest problem is the traffic as extensive improvements are made to the tram network. Laying track requires ripping up the road and setting it all again, which is a timely and costly process. Yet, with trams beginning to be phased out in the 1930s, there isn't much time to appreciate Whitechapel's new and improved line.

GETTY



"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **August**

SEISMIC COST

Around 36,000 people died when Krakatoa erupted, mostly from tsunamis (with waves 30 metres high) caused by the explosions.

LAVA FROM JAVA

1883 KRAKATOA CRACKS UP

Imagine standing in London and hearing a noise from Nova Scotia. That's the equivalent of what happened when the Indonesian volcano Krakatoa erupted in August 1883. The explosion (the **loudest sound recorded**) could be heard near Mauritius, 2,900 miles away. Ash and rock in the air plunged the area into darkness for days, affecting the **colour of sunsets around the world** for a year.

TOM THUMBS UP OR DOWN

1830 HORSE POWER RACE

US businessman Peter Cooper wanted to show off his invention, a **locomotive named Tom Thumb**, during its test run on 28 August 1830. So when someone challenged his diminutive train to race one of the more common horse-drawn trains, he happily accepted. *Tom Thumb* pulled away easily, but **came to a grinding halt after a belt slipped**, allowing the horse to win.

BENZ THE RULES

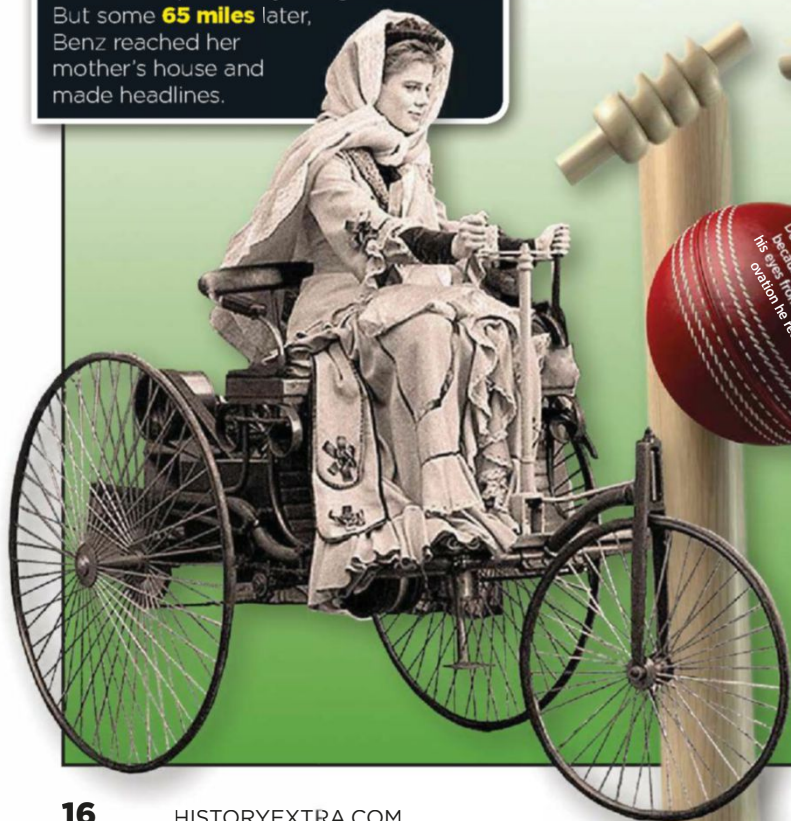
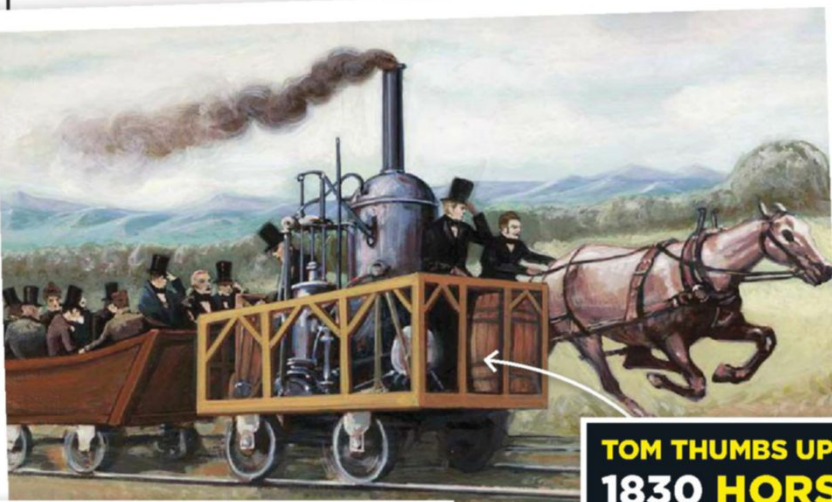
1888 QUEEN OF THE ROAD

German engineer Karl Benz could make an automobile, but it was his wife Bertha who knew how to sell it. In August 1888, she **climbed aboard the three-wheeler**, along with her two sons, and set off on the first long-distance road trip to get some publicity. The going was tough – she repaired the ignition with her garter, **unclogged the fuel line with a hairpin**, asked a shoemaker to fit leather soles as rudimentary brake pads and filled the tank with a pharmacy-bought solution. But some **65 miles** later, Benz reached her mother's house and made headlines.

ASHES TO ASHES

1948 DON'S DUCK DISASTER

Ask any cricket fan who the best batsman in the history of the sport was and most wouldn't hesitate before answering **Don Bradman**. Yet the awesome Aussie's final innings, in the fifth Ashes Test of 1948, was not the send-off he deserved. The Don went out for a duck (no runs), **needing just four for a batting average of 100**. No-one has been that close and perhaps never will – the great Sachin Tendulkar's average was less than 54.





BOOM!



THE LIONESS'S SHARE 1343 ARRRR BE BACK!

The **French crown** made a **very strong enemy** in Jeanne de Clisson after beheading her husband on 2 August 1343. She raised a force, decked out three warships (painted black and with red sails) and **spent 13 years stalking French vessels** up and down the English Channel under the name the 'Lioness of Brittany'.

"...OH BOY" August events that changed the world

2 AUGUST 216 BC WE CANNAE TAKE IT!

The army of Hannibal crushes a larger Roman force at the Battle of Cannae.

13 AUGUST 1521 WRECK OF THE AZTECS

Hernán Cortés captures the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan.

13 AUGUST 1624 RICHELIEU RISES

Cardinal Richelieu, the power behind the French throne and enemy of the Three Musketeers, is appointed chief minister.

30 AUGUST 1716 CAPABLE BEGINNING

The great English landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown is born.

16 AUGUST 1819 PETERLOO MASSACRE

Cavalry charge into a crowd at St Peter's Field, Manchester, killing 15.

15 AUGUST 1914 A PANAMA PRESENTATION

US ship SS *Ancon* pays to make the first official transit of the Panama Canal.

21 AUGUST 1959 ALOHA TO NUMBER 50

Hawaii – in the Pacific Ocean – becomes the 50th state of the United States.



OUT OF A RUT 1527 ROYAL MAIL DELIVERY

When John Rut sat down in St John's, Newfoundland, to write a report of his New World voyage – for none other than King Henry VIII – he unknowingly penned the **first English-language letter** from North America. Dated 3 August 1527, it declared: "Pleasing your Honourable Grace to heare of your servant John Rut with all his company here in good health thanks be to God." **Atlantic crossings took weeks** so Henry would have been left waiting quite a while for the postie.



CARDS ON THE TABLE 1876 WILD BILL GOES ALL IN

After a career of gunfighting, 'Wild Bill' Hickok was killed **not with iron in his hands, but playing cards**. At 4.15pm on 2 August 1867, a young rival walked into the saloon where Wild Bill was playing poker and shot him in the back. The cards he held – **two black aces and two black eights** (the fifth was unknown) – is now called 'dead man's hand'.

AND FINALLY...

On 15 August 1483, Pope Sixtus IV led the first mass in the Vatican's **newly finished Sistine Chapel**, adorned with frescos by the greatest Renaissance painters. Michelangelo's famous ceiling wouldn't be added until 1508.



Gerald Ford is ready to take over as the President makes his momentous decision

NIXON GOES



STRENGTH TO SHAME

Before Watergate, Nixon had proven himself a capable President. He **ended the United States' involvement in Vietnam**, launched diplomatic relations with China, enforced desegregation, established the Environmental Protection Agency and oversaw the Moon landing. He **won the 1972 election** by a landslide.



By **WILLIAM LOWTHER** Washington Correspondent

IT IS OVER. Richard Milhous Nixon, disgraced and broken on the rack of Watergate, is resigning today as President of the United States.

He is handing over power to his Vice-President, Gerald Ford.

Mr Nixon was going on national television at nine o'clock Washington time to tell the nation of his decision.

It was a decision made in the middle of Wednesday night as he sat alone in a small, private room in the White House.

Spectacular

U.S. Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger—the brilliant diplomatist whose work has ensured that Nixon will go down in history not just a corrupt and failed leader, but also as a spectacular international peace-maker—was instrumental in swaying Mr Nixon.

The American constitution required Mr Nixon to write out his resignation and hand it to Dr Kissinger. He was reported to have done it yesterday afternoon. It is to take effect today.

Having made his decision Mr Nixon decided to stay silent on the details until he had spoken directly to the nation.

It was dull and muggy in Washington as crowds began gathering outside the White House and Mr Nixon ended his final day of power.

After making his decision, Mr Nixon went to bed for a few hours. But he was up early and at 11 a.m. called Vice-President Ford to the Oval office.

Tough

According to Washington sources, Mr Nixon told him that he was resigning and that power would be handed over on Friday afternoon.

Mr Ford is an old and loyal Nixon friend. Their 70-minute meeting is said to have been very emotional.

As it ended, Mr Ford crossed the street to the executive office building and conferred with his chief aide, Mr Robert Hartman.

He showed no emotion at this time. His last moments with Mr Nixon had passed and the strong-willed, tough-looking Mr Ford had adjusted to a new image.

Under the Constitution, Mr Ford will designate his own Vice-President, subject to Congressional confirma-

tion. It is thought likely to be 66-year-old Nelson A. Rockefeller, former Governor of New York.

Wednesday must have been a terrible 24 hours for Mr Nixon. Throughout the day Republican supporters after Republican supporter called on him to resign. Even his best friends were pressing him to quit.

By the evening, he was exhausted. Normally a formal and unemotional man, Mr Nixon held a family dinner in the White House. For probably the first time in his Presidency, he sat down at the dinner table in his shirt sleeves.

There was just his wife, Pat, daughter and son-in-law Julie and David Eisenhower, and daughter and son-in-law Tricia and Edward Cox.

The President had still not decided.

His two sons-in-law told him he had no option. He had to get out.

Dilemma

But all three women urged him to fight on. They argued that he was innocent of any wrong and resignation would be an admission of defeat.

He left the table still in a dilemma, and went to a private office to think alone. After a few minutes his Chief of Staff, General Alexander Haig, joined him. And for the first time in their close relationship General Haig urged the President to quit.

He argued that it was hopeless to carry on and that the nation would be ill-served by the trauma of impeachment and a Senate trial.

Mr Nixon sent for Dr Kissinger, who stayed for one

Turn to Page 2, Col 3

His health and wealth	Page 2
Grocery store to White House	Page 3
Honest Gerald takes over	Page 4
Lord Snow and Comment	Page 6
The loyal women	Page 7
The unmaking of a President	Centre Pages

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **9 August 1974**, Richard Nixon becomes the only US President to resign

"I HAVE NEVER BEEN A QUITTER, BUT..." RICHARD NIXON

Rather than face impeachment and removal from office over the on-going shambles of Watergate, President Richard Nixon decided to step down. His resignation on 9 August 1974 hurled the United States into the unknown – no President had ever quit before.

The snowballing of scandals began two years earlier with a break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, Nixon's rivals for the 1972 election, based in Washington's Watergate complex. By reporting the arrests of the five burglars, young *Washington Post* journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward stumbled on a host of illegal activities that could be traced back to Nixon's administration. They uncovered that the Committee to Re-elect the President (shortened, to the delight of headline-writers, as 'CREEP') had arranged the Watergate burglary to wiretap opponents.

Bernstein and Woodward's dogged investigation continued – with the help of an informant known as 'Deep Throat' – revealing a sophisticated and wide-ranging cover-up. Pressure built on Nixon, with calls for impeachment growing louder and demands for the White House to release tape recordings made in the Oval Office.

The 'smoking gun' finally came on 5 August 1974, with a recording implicating Nixon and his advisers of blocking FBI investigations. With his support in Congress and across the country eroded, Nixon addressed the nation. "I have never been a quitter. To leave office before my term is completed is abhorrent to every instinct in my body. But as President, I must put the interest of America first," he declared in a television broadcast.

Gerald Ford succeeded Nixon and, a few months later, issued an unconditional pardon, saving him from prosecution (although several in his administration weren't so lucky). 'Tricky Dicky' Nixon never admitted guilt. ☹



IN DEEP WATERGATE
TOP: Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein investigate Watergate
LEFT: Members of Congress listen to tapes subpoenaed from the White House
BOTTOM: At 9pm on 8 August 1974, Nixon announces his intention to resign the presidency



"I AM NOT A CROOK"

The recordings made in the White House were subpoenaed, but President Nixon handed over only transcripts first. When he released the tapes, one was found to have **18 and a half minutes** missing.



BREAK IN AND BREAK DOWN

On the day of his resignation speech, Nixon met with friends and advisers, but **had to leave the room** when he broke down and began crying.

1974 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

7 AUGUST French high-wire artist Philippe Petit spends 45 minutes walking on a wire **between the Twin Towers** of the World Trade Center, 400 metres above the ground. He is arrested for the act.

16 AUGUST At a small New York dive bar called CBGB's, a **young band named the Ramones** launch into their first gig with the shout, "One, two, three, four!" That moment is hailed as the birth of punk rock.

30 AUGUST When an express train derails at full speed while approaching Zagreb station, **153 people die**. It is the worst rail disaster in the history of the former Yugoslavia.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

The Scouts through the ages

1907 SCOUTING FOR BOYS BEGINS

In August 1907, a decorated army officer invited 20 boys from a variety of backgrounds to a demonstration camp, and the worldwide Scouting movement was born...

At the Scouts' 21st anniversary celebration, **Baden-Powell** was presented with a **Rolls Royce** (which he called Jam Roll), a caravan (named Eccles) and, at his request, a pair of braces.



SCOUTMAN

In 1958, an **11-year-old David Bowie** (or David Jones, as he was then) gave his **first-ever public performance** while camping with the 18th Bromley Scouts. He played a ukulele and a homemade single-string bass.



1942

The **first National Air Scout camp** is held in Avington, Hampshire, the year after the Air Scouts are founded.



1941 Chief Scout **Baden-Powell** passes away in Kenya. A memorial service is held at Westminster Abbey, where a plaque in his honour remains.



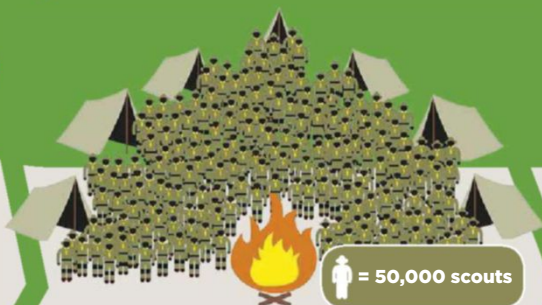
1939

The year that the first Scouts' Soap Box Derby is launched, **worldwide membership reaches 3.3 million**. After World War II breaks out, the Scouts take on numerous duties in the war effort.



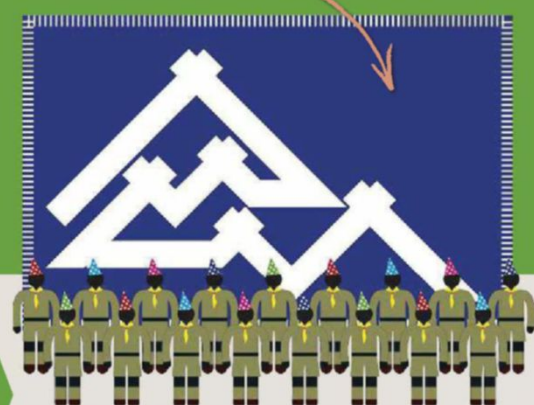
WE NEED YOU

Over **50,000 Scouts** trained for National War Service jobs during WWII, fulfilling roles such as police messengering, firefighting and stretcher bearing.



= 50,000 scouts

1966 In the year of the Wolf Cubs' Golden Jubilee, worldwide Scout numbers reach **10.5 million**.



Ninety-three countries were represented at the 14th World Jamboree, which came to be known as Nordjamb '75

1975 Some **17,700 Scouts** attend the 14th World Scout Jamboree in Norway, as global membership pushes 14 million.



1949

UK's Scouts launch **Bob-a-Job week** over Easter, where youngsters are paid a shilling (a 'bob') for good deeds. It's a huge success, and becomes an annual event.



Today, there are some **74 official Scouts badges**, but Scout leaders can also create badges unique to individual children.

150 million

copies since 1908. It is the fourth-best-selling book of all time, after *The Bible*, *The Koran* and Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book*.

Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* has sold 150 million

FACT FILE

THE FOUNDER OF THE SCOUTS

FULL NAME: Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell

LIVED: 1857-1941

PROFESSIONS: British Army Officer, author, Grand Scout of the World

BIO: Serving in the army for over 30 years, Baden-Powell saw action in India and Africa and became a national hero after an epic 217-day defence at Mafeking during the Boer Wars. Upon retirement, he formed the Boy Scouts Association, wrote the bestselling book, *Scouting for Boys*, and became a Baronet, before moving to Kenya for his final years.



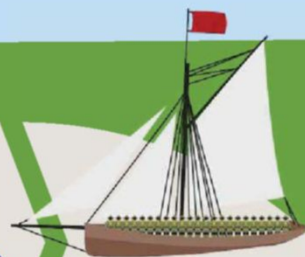
The activities at Baden-Powell's first camp are designed to boost the boys' camping, observation, woodcraft and lifesaving skills, as well as their senses of chivalry and patriotism.

100,000 Within **three years**, the Scouts accrue more than 100,000 young participants.



1907 Baden-Powell hosts the **first scout camp** on Brownsea Island in Poole, Dorset. The following year, his book *Scouting for Boys* is published in six fortnightly parts, at **4d a copy**.

1910 Baden-Powell forms the **Girl Guides** with his sister, Agnes, and the **Sea Scouts** unit is also formed.



1912 Disaster strikes when nine boys – **eight from the Walworth Scouts** – drown at the Isle of Sheppey in Kent. The boat was carrying 23 Scouts from London to the Leysdown camp.

The Scouts Association exists by the authority of a **Royal Charter**, granted by King George V in 1912.

KNOT FOR NOTHING

In *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell lists 12 “useful knots” that all Scouts should know. Today, the first – the **reef knot** – is the first most Beavers will learn.



= 20,000 scouts

1922 Rapidly growing around the world, Scout numbers exceed **1 million**.



1920 The First International Scout Conference and World Jamboree is held at Olympia in London, with more than **8,000 Scouts from 34 different untries** attending. Baden-Powell is declared the first Grand Scout of the World.

The original Wolf Cubs badge would have been worn on the left breast



1916 The Cubs, originally called the **Wolf Cubs**, is officially formed for boys in the 8-10½ age group.



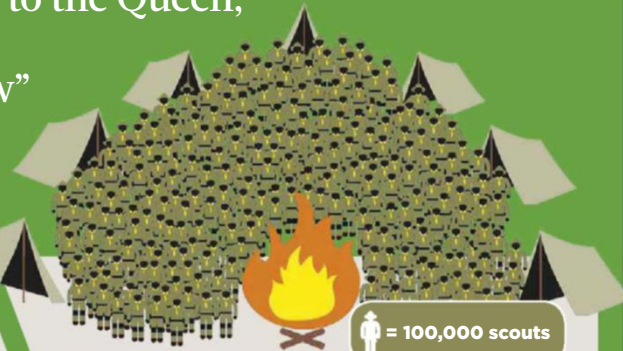
11 of the 12 men to walk on the Moon were Scouts – Neil Armstrong carried a membership badge with him on Apollo 11.



“On my honour, I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God and to the Queen,
To help other people
And to keep the Scout Law”

1979

A **World Jamboree**, planned to be held in **Iran**, is cancelled after **revolution** breaks out.



= 100,000 scouts

2016 Today, world membership is around **25 million**, while the UK Scouts comprises **457,000 young boys and girls** and 91,000 adult volunteers.

RECORD BREAKERS

The Scouts hold a host of world records, including longest handshake relay, largest piggyback race, most people performing flag signals, tallest cookie tower, and the largest marble-game tournament.

1991 With changes to the Royal Charter agreed, membership to the **Beavers and Cubs** is opened up to **girls**.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

How a victory for workers led to the first free trade union in the Soviet bloc

1980 POLISH HERO EMERGES FROM SHIPYARD STRIKE

Under the leadership of Lech Wałęsa, a local protest turns into a national movement to bring solidarity to Poland

Weeks earlier, Lech Wałęsa had been an unemployed electrician, laid off for activism on behalf of Poland's labour force. Now, on 26 August 1980, he is a leader of a mass movement, negotiating with government officials and on the verge of an agreement – the preliminary contract of which is in his hand – to bring hope to the workers.

CENTRE OF UNREST

After a decade of political and economic tensions in Poland, the Lenin shipyard in Gdańsk became the centre of unrest during the summer of 1980. Food prices increased while pay remained low, but the catalyst was the firing of popular crane operator Anna Walentynowicz, just months before her retirement, for her link to an illegal workers' union. Some 17,000 began a sit-down strike, and Wałęsa – who witnessed the Gdańsk food riots in 1970, where police killed protestors – wanted to join them.

On 14 August 1980, he snuck over the fences into the shipyard and was elected a leader of the strike committee. It took three days for the management to give in to demands of pay rises, but the strike had already taken on

greater, nationwide significance by then. Censorship failed to keep news from Gdańsk quiet, so committees from around Poland looked to unite, resulting in bolder demands. This meant not only taking on the Communist government, but risking the ire of their Soviet overlords.

Wałęsa met with Deputy Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski and, on 31 August, the two sides signed an agreement, making landmark concessions to the workers, such as the right to strike and form independent trade unions.

IN SOLIDARITY

The strike galvanised the labour force and led to Poland's first free trade union, named Solidarity, with Wałęsa as its chairman. In a matter of years, it boasted 10 million members.

Solidarity went underground after the declaration of martial law in 1981 – Wałęsa was one of thousands to be imprisoned – but its message had already seeped into Poland's consciousness. Once legal again, the union stormed to a massive majority in the 1989 parliamentary elections and, the following year, Wałęsa won a landslide victory to become Poland's first freely elected President in half a century. 🗳️

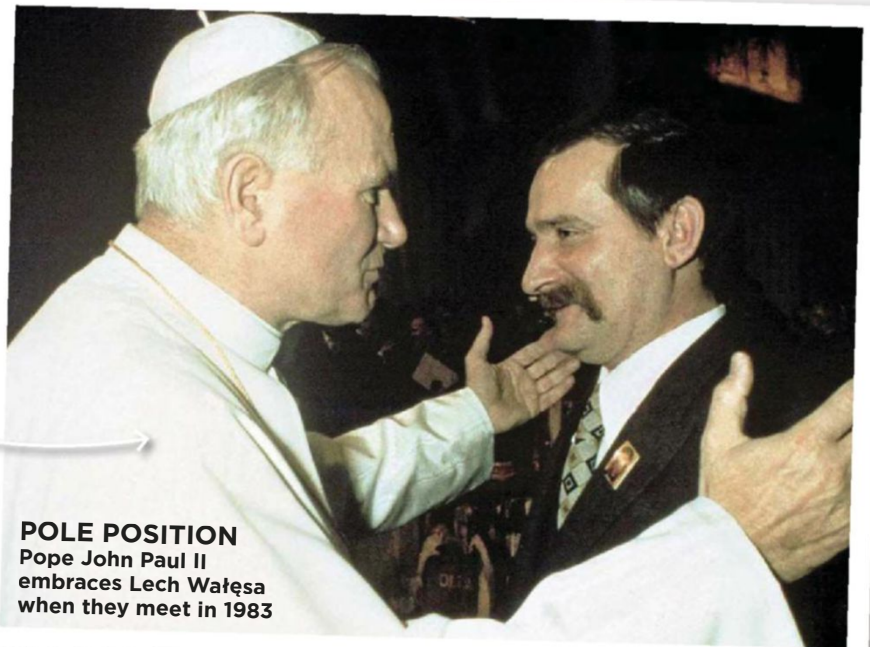


PEACE FOR POLAND

In 1983, Lech Wałęsa was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**, but dared not leave Poland to receive it in case he wouldn't be allowed back into the country. His **wife accepted it** on his behalf.

HOPE AND THE POPE

The success of both the strikes and Solidarity was assisted by the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, which helped spread the message of the workers. They had a **strong ally in Pope John Paul II**, a native Pole.



POLE POSITION
Pope John Paul II
embraces Lech Wałęsa
when they meet in 1983

**“It is hardly possible
to build anything if
frustration, bitterness
and a mood of
helplessness prevail.”**

Lech Wałęsa's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, 1983



STRIKE IT PLUCKY
Lech Wałęsa announces
to strikers that he is close
to an agreement with
the Polish government
- a monumental victory
for the country's workers



THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

How sewage and smells led to **Joseph Bazalgette's** ground-breaking reforms

1858 LONDON HOLDS ITS NOSE AGAINST THE GREAT STINK

The Thames had been home to the capital's waste for centuries, so imagine how bad the smell must have got for the government to act

What do you get if you mix an industrialised capital city struggling with antiquated drainage, a river clogged by sewage and effluence dumped by a population on the rise, and an atypically hot and dry summer that could cook the tons of waste into a putrid stench? The people of London found out in 1858 – and they dubbed it the ‘Great Stink’.

The reek of the River Thames – described as a “pestiferous and typhus breeding abomination” – became so bad that it forced the suspension of Parliament. With the centre of the British Empire unable to function, something had to be done, leading to long-awaited, ground-breaking and life-saving reforms, from which Londoners still benefit today.

FEAR THE FUNK

The Great Stink was a long time in the brewing. For centuries, as London transformed into a bustling metropolis, people used

the Thames as a dumping ground for both human waste and the refuse spilling out of the factories, mills and slaughterhouses, in the hope the tide would carry the foul debris to sea. Sewers fell into disrepair, while cesspits overflowed – some caught fire or exploded from built-up methane. Even the flushing toilet, popular after the 1851 Great Exhibition, put strain on the pipes.

As a source of drinking water, the Thames grew dangerously unhygienic. But worse than the smell was the high risk of disease. The miasma theory claimed illnesses spread through ‘bad air’, meaning people feared the funk of the river but continued to glug down its water. During the 19th century, tens of thousands died across cholera epidemics in London, despite physician John Snow’s papers theorising its water-borne nature.

Another scientist fascinated by London’s water was Michael Faraday. In a letter to *The Times* in

“Gentility of speech is at an end – it stinks, and whoso once inhales the stink can never forget it and can count himself lucky if he lives to remember it.”

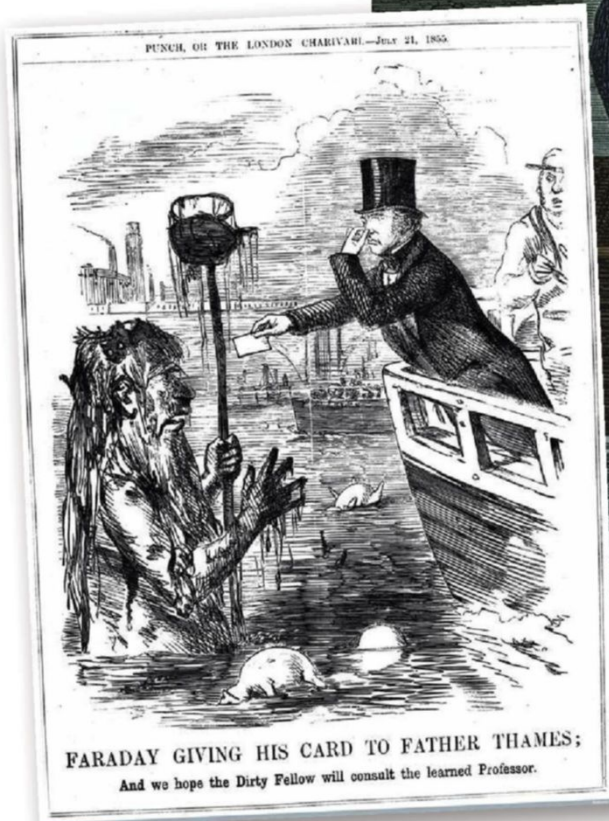
From London newspaper, City Press – the Great Stink featured in articles and satirical cartoons on an almost daily basis

SILENT HIGHWAYMAN

In this *Punch* illustration from 1858, entitled *The Silent Highwayman*, the Thames is reminiscent of the River Styx – the Ancient Greek **boundary between Earth and the Underworld** – with dead animals in the water.

TOXIC THAMES

MAIN: During the Great Stink, the Thames was seen as a place of death
BELOW: In this 1855 cartoon, scientist Michael Faraday meets ‘Father Thames’

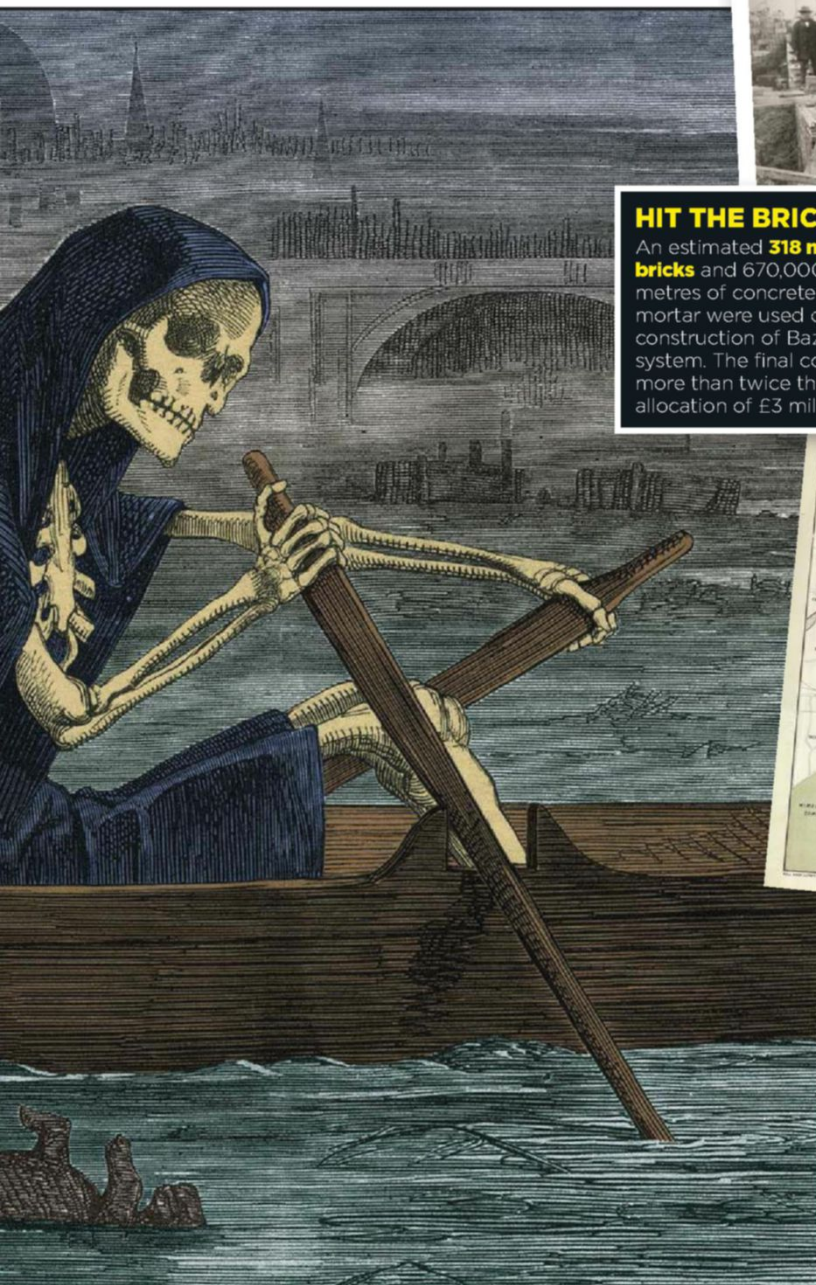


1855, he wrote: “Near the bridges the feculence rolled up in clouds so dense that they were visible at the surface. The smell was very bad... the whole river was for the time a real sewer.” Then, in the summer of 1858, that sewer became too much to bear.

FERMENTED WASTE

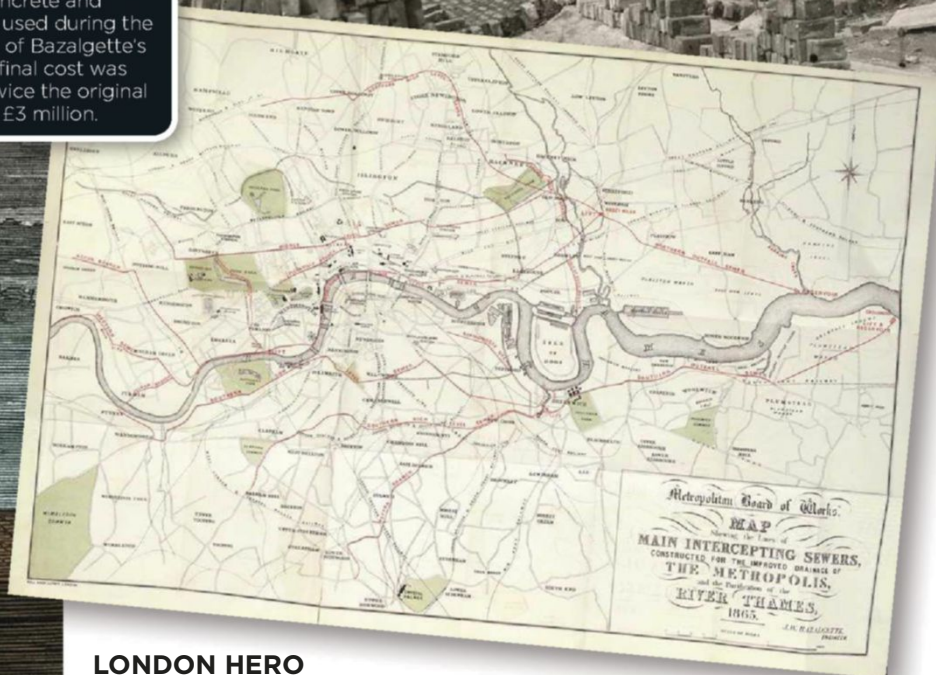
From June to August, London went through a long dry spell, causing the level of the Thames

to drop and expose the river’s sewage-soaked banks. If that wasn’t bad enough, the scorching heat of that summer fermented the waste, which cooked up what must have been a truly oppressive odour. The Great Stink became a sensation in the press, with the offending river being depicted as a bedraggled, filthy figure: ‘Father Thames’. “We can colonise the remotest ends of the earth; we can conquer India; we



HIT THE BRICKS

An estimated **318 million bricks** and 670,000 cubic metres of concrete and mortar were used during the construction of Bazalgette's system. The final cost was more than twice the original allocation of £3 million.



LONDON HERO

TOP: Joseph Bazalgette stands (far right) on top of the Northern Outfall Sewer as he revolutionises London's drainage
BOTTOM: A map of London, with Bazalgette's systems in red

the overhaul of London's sewer networks, to be carried out by the Metropolitan Board of Works and under the direction of civil engineer Joseph Bazalgette.

BACKBONE OF LONDON

Construction began straight away, as Bazalgette had drawn up plans for a reformed system years before the Great Stink. With that special brand of Victorian ambition and zeal, he set about building more than 1,000 miles of sewers and outfalls to take waste away from the city; pumping stations to allow it to travel uphill; means of supplying fresh water; and three embankments to assist the flow eastwards. The Victoria, Albert and Chelsea embankments were "one of the most difficult and intricate things" he had done, but a success nonetheless.

Bazalgette's system formed a new, strong backbone for the city of London. By the time everything

was finished, after 20 years of works, waste was no longer dumped directly into the Thames, transforming it into one of the world's cleanest inner-city rivers. People felt the benefits. When cholera broke out in 1866, most of the 6,000 casualties came from the East End, an area Bazalgette hadn't reached yet.

Thanks to remarkable foresight – such as making his sewers twice as wide as required to suit larger populations of the future – Bazalgette's sewer networks are still functioning today, serving a capital city of 8.5 million people. Bazalgette brought a breath of fresh air to a place reeling from the Great Stink and saved countless lives in the process. 📍

can pay the interest of the most enormous debt ever contracted; we can spread our name, and our fame, and our fructifying wealth to every part of the world; but we cannot clean the River Thames," stated an article from *The Illustrated London News*.

The toxic stench affected everyone downwind, including the reigning monarch. In an attempt to enjoy a pleasure cruise on the Thames, Queen Victoria took to the water with Albert, only to return to shore a few minutes later, unable to take any more. Members of Parliament, too, failed to ignore the Great Stink. At first,

they drenched the curtains with lime chloride and walked with handkerchiefs over their noses. When this didn't work, they discussed moving the government out of London – one MP grew animated demanding whether any measures were being taken for "mitigating the effluvium and discontinuing the nuisance".

At the behest of Leader of the House of Commons (and future Prime Minister) Benjamin Disraeli – who labelled the Thames "a Stygian pool, reeking with ineffable and intolerable horrors" – a bill was rushed through in just 18 days. It set aside £3 million for

   **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
Where does Joseph Bazalgette rank among the great Victorian pioneers?
email: editor@historyrevealed.com

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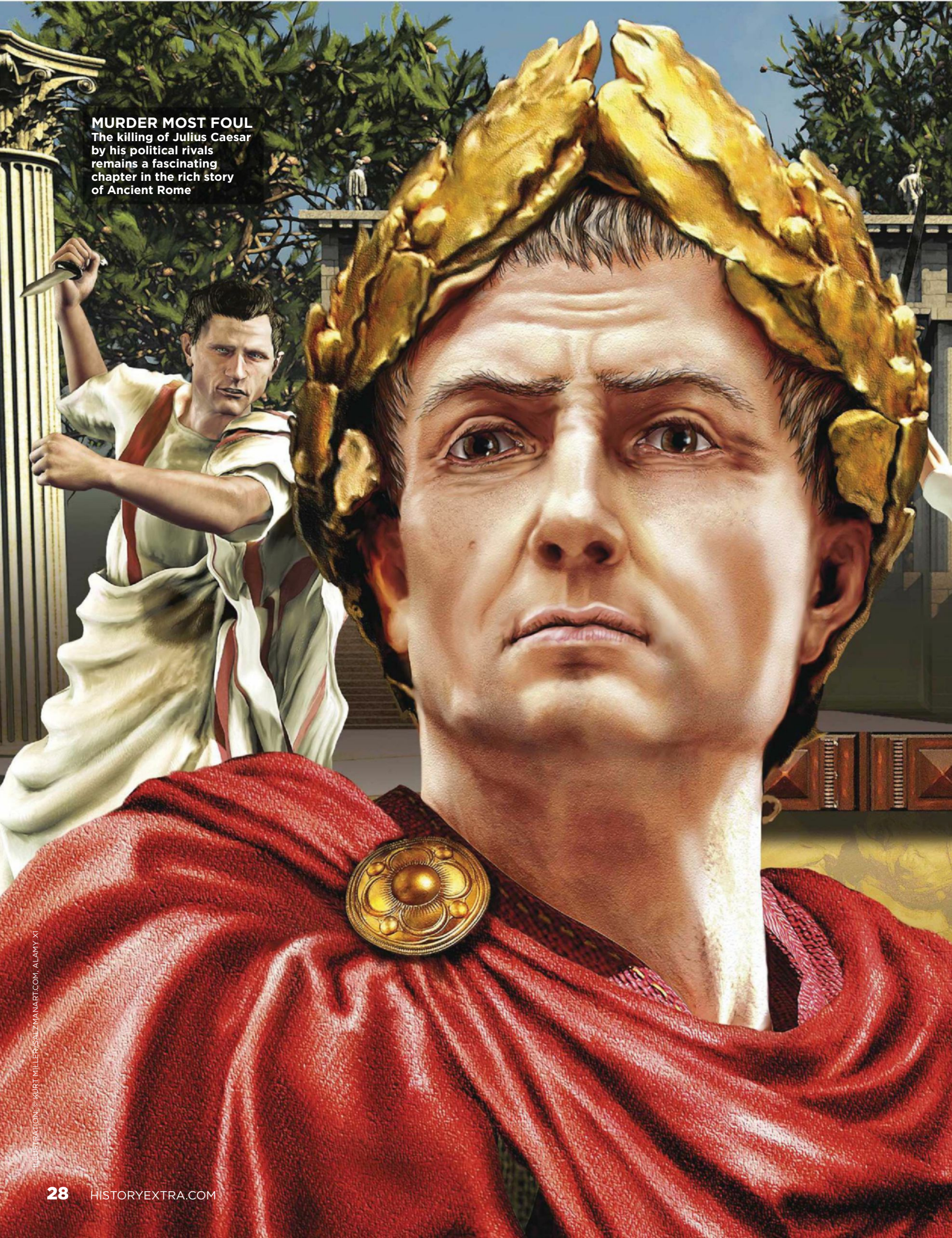
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HISTORY
REVEALED

MURDER MOST FOUL

The killing of Julius Caesar remains a fascinating chapter in the rich story of Ancient Rome



COVER STORY
JULIUS CAESAR



KILLING CAESAR

The story behind Rome's
most infamous assassination

Words: Adrian Goldsworthy



**FIRST-HAND
ACCOUNT**

Caesar's books, which describe his military successes, are lauded for **their clear and direct use of Latin** and are still studied today.



“Et tu Brute? Then fall Caesar!” Julius Caesar utters these final words less than halfway through Shakespeare’s play which, in spite of its name, is more concerned with the tragic hero, Brutus. The playwright was confident that he did not need to translate the three Latin words; even today, this is one of a handful of Latin phrases most people know.

The scene, where the greatest and most powerful man in Rome is repeatedly stabbed during a meeting of the Senate – killed by conspirators whose leader likes Caesar personally but feels that he must die for the good

of the state – is both spectacular and dramatic. Over the centuries it has been depicted countless times in art, on stage, in print and on screen, the latter both seriously (by Rex Harrison in *Cleopatra*) or parodied by Kenneth Williams in *Carry On Cleo*. It is just the sort of over-the-top death Hollywood loves to invent – much like in *Gladiator* where the Emperor Commodus is killed in the arena of the Colosseum rather than being strangled in the bath.

Yet, in Caesar’s case, there was no need for artistic licence. He was murdered at the height of his power, in the Senate, stabbed 23 times by conspirators armed with daggers.

WISE WORDS
ABOVE: **Caesar dictates his commentaries on the Gallic and civil wars**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Sulla attacking Rome en route to becoming dictator**

Many of them, including Brutus, were former friends, but they killed him anyway, and claimed that they were restoring liberty to Rome. If anything, the truth is even more complicated, filled with irony and intrigue, at times coming across as the plot of a soap opera.

MURDER IN MIND

Caesar was murdered on 15 March – the Ides of March as the Romans called it – in the year that we know as 44 BC. The city of Rome was some seven centuries old and, since 509 BC when the last king was expelled, had been a republic. The conspirators who murdered Caesar claimed that his power had brought the Republic to an end and that his death was necessary to restore it.

POINT OF NO RETURN

Crossing the Rubicon

The River Rubicon was little more than a stream, so small and obscure that we cannot even find it today. The road from Ravenna to Ariminum (modern Rimini) went across it and, in 49 BC, the river marked the boundary between Caesar’s province, where he could legally command his legions, and Italy itself where his powers as governor lapsed.

On the night of 10-11 January, Caesar slipped away from a feast in

Ravenna and travelled south in a mule-drawn carriage. He had already sent soldiers disguised in civilian clothes ahead of him and the Thirteenth Legion was following them.

The great general got lost in the darkness, but eventually found his way back to the main road and reached the Rubicon. For a while



THE GREAT DIVIDE
Crossing a small stream with his troops turned Caesar from legitimate figure to rebel

he paused, telling his companions: “Even now we could turn back; but once we cross that tiny bridge, then everything will depend on armed force.”

Once he had crossed the river at the command of even a small part of his army, he ceased to be a legal magistrate and instead became a rebel. Caesar crossed, quoting an old gambler’s tag – “The dice are rolled”. It was a declaration of civil war.





The conspirators believed the murder was necessary to restore the Republic

The central principle of Republican Rome was that no one individual or group should possess permanent supreme power. To this end, the Romans developed a complex system of checks and balances, even though, like Britain, they had no written constitution, but a patchwork of laws and precedents. The people - or, at least, male Roman citizens able to be in Rome to vote - elected all magistrates and voted on the laws brought before the popular assemblies. The Senate consisted of some 600 men drawn from former magistrates and was a permanent council, but had no



formal powers and was merely a debating and advisory body.

The most important magistrates were the two consuls who held office for just 12 months. No-one was allowed to stand for re-election until ten years had passed. Given that the minimum age to stand for the consulship was 42, this effectively meant that it was very rare for anyone to be consul twice, let alone three times. During their year of office, the consuls had considerable power, but neither one could overrule his colleague.

For a long time, the system kept Rome free of the frequent revolutions that beset most ancient states, especially in the Greek world. Competition for the consulship was fierce. With 600 senators, it was impossible for more than a minority to become consuls; plus, a handful of aristocratic families dominated the office. They had reputation and the money to advertise their achievements and to buy voters, helped by the Roman fondness for electing people with names they were familiar with.

BENDING THE RULES

Rome had come to dominate the Mediterranean world by the middle of the second century BC, but the system was showing signs of strain. It now had an empire stretching from Spain to Macedonia, and many problems - especially wars in distant lands - could



WHO WAS WHO?

Cast of characters

POMPEY THE GREAT

(CNAEUS POMPEIUS MAGNUS)

He was six years older than Caesar, but began his career very young, raising a private army and backing Sulla in the first civil war. Pompey broke all the rules, but was too powerful to ignore. He did support Caesar, but later turned against him.



CRASSUS

(MARCUS LICINIUS CRASSUS)

A shrewd businessman and another of Sulla's supporters, he put this aside in 59 BC to work with Pompey and Caesar. He had quelled the slave rebellion of Spartacus, but was defeated and killed by the Parthians in 53 BC.



CICERO

(MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO)

The greatest orator of his day, he was also a prolific author whose speeches and letters offer a window into this age. Although he liked Caesar as an individual, he hated his politics and the fact of the dictatorship.



ANTONY

(MARCUS ANTONIUS)

One of the few aristocrats to back Caesar during the civil war. He served briefly in Gaul and the Civil War campaigns, but was more politician than soldier. Caesar chose him as his colleague in the consulship for 44 BC.



CATO

(MARCUS PORCIUS CATO THE YOUNGER)

One of Caesar's bitterest opponents. He was a skilled manipulator of senatorial procedure, including speaking until sunset, at which point the meeting had to be dismissed and no vote could be taken.



BRUTUS

(MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS)

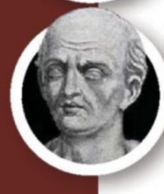
Cato's nephew and the son of Caesar's mistress Servilia. His father was executed by Pompey, and Brutus refused ever to speak to him until he joined him to fight against Caesar in 49 BC.



CASSIUS

(CAIUS CASSIUS LONGINUS)

He fought against Caesar in 49 BC, but surrendered and was treated well. His wife was Brutus's sister, but Cassius was possibly jealous of the particular favour Caesar showed to Brutus.



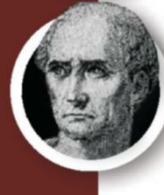
CLEOPATRA VII

She had been expelled by her brother when Caesar arrived in Alexandria and was smuggled into his room hidden in a laundry bag (and not a carpet), becoming his lover. Caesar fought a war restoring her to the throne of Egypt.



CALPURNIA

Caesar's third wife, but their union failed to produce any children. However, since Caesar left for Gaul within a few months of the wedding and did not see her for ten years, this is unsurprising.



SERVILIA

Cato's half-sister, the mother of Brutus and the lover of Caesar. She was highly intelligent, well-educated and ambitious. As women could neither vote nor hold office, her ambition focused on advancing her son's career; her three daughters were all married off to influential men.



not be resolved in just one year under the leadership of one consul. The rules began to be bent or broken. In 104-100 BC, Marius, Caesar's uncle by marriage, held five successive consulships; he was the only general trusted by voters to deal with the threat to Rome posed by large groups of Germanic migrants who had already massacred several Roman armies.

Marius' ambition clashed with that of the consul Sulla in 88 BC and led to civil war, with Rome being stormed three times by Roman armies in the years that followed. Marius died of a stroke and Sulla defeated all his other opponents before making himself dictator, an emergency post supposed to last for just six months. Sulla ignored the time limit and massacred and executed his enemies. For a while, the teenage Julius Caesar was a hunted fugitive pursued by Sulla's soldiers, until his mother and uncle managed to persuade the dictator to pardon him.

VIOLENT SOCIETY

The spectre of political violence hung over the Republic throughout Caesar's career. Although Sulla resigned, a coup occurred within months and the threat of more violence was ever-present.

Each new election brought bribery on

an ever-greater scale, along with organised intimidation of the supporters of other candidates.

Caesar, a member of an ancient but impoverished family, which had enjoyed little political success for generations, borrowed and spent money on a vast scale, staging public games and giving

Caesar borrowed and spent money on a vast scale, giving gifts to buy support

gifts to buy supporters. For all that, his career was conventional and followed the rules. He was only unusual in his talent for making the headlines for his flamboyance, his scandalous love affairs with the wives of other senators, and his consistent championing of popular causes. Many Romans from outside the aristocracy began to see him as a man who had their interests at heart.

355

The number of days in a Roman year before Caesar authorised the adoption of the Julian calendar

In 59 BC, he became consul, helped by an informal agreement with Pompey and Crassus. These two wealthy senators found themselves blocked by the concerted opposition of the mass of senators eager to clip their wings. Caesar gave them what they wanted, as well as passing other laws including a bill redistributing publicly owned land to poorer citizens, giving them farms and taking them off the list of people receiving free grain from the state.

This was only achieved in the face of bitter opposition led by Cato, a senator who employed every constitutional trick in the book. Few were opposed in principle but resented Caesar and his friends from gaining the credit for solving these problems faced by the state. Caesar pressed on regardless, orchestrating his supporters far more effectively in the rioting that followed. He got his way, before leaving for a provincial command and not returning for ten years. During that time, he conquered Gaul, raided Britain twice and crossed the Rhine into Germany, all the while paying off his debts and making himself rich with the spoils of victory.

After a suitable interval, Caesar wanted to return and become consul for the second time. Cato and other

ON THE FRONTLINE

Caesar presides over the surrender of Gallic tribes after the battle of Alesia in Gaul in 52 BC

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Caesar presided over a string of battles in the Gallic Wars between 58-50 BC as he expanded the Roman Republic



TIMELINE

How events unfolded in Caesar's Rome



Julius Caesar is born. Within months, a political dispute spills over into violence in which hundreds of citizens are killed in the heart of Rome's Forum.

Civil war and Sulla's dictatorship. Caesar's uncle Marius fights the first civil war after his rival Sulla marches his legions on Rome. When Sulla wins and becomes dictator, Caesar is added to a death-list and is forced to flee before being reprieved.

100 BC

Caesar wins election to Rome's highest priesthood, the *pontifex maximus* – a title later taken by each emperor and, subsequently, the Pope. Already heavily in debt, on the day of the election Caesar tells his mother that he would come back a victor or not at all.

88-79 BC

Caesar is elected consul, supported by Crassus and Pompey. Cato and other opponents try to block his programme of legislation, which leads to rioting. Caesar forces everything through, but his opponents manage to create a sense of doubt about the legality of what he does.

63 BC

Caesar is given command of an enlarged province of Transalpine and Cisalpine Gaul and Illyria with an army of four legions. In the years to come, he conquers Gaul up to the Atlantic coast and the Rhine.

59 BC

Caesar leads two expeditions to the mysterious island of Britain. On both occasions, much of his fleet is wrecked by storms, threatening to trap him on the island. He escapes and, although the raids achieve little, they are greeted with euphoria back in Rome.

58-50 BC

Julia, Caesar's only legitimate child and the wife of Pompey, dies giving birth to a baby who also dies a few days later. Without Julia, Caesar and Pompey's alliance slowly decays.



55-54 BC

Crassus invades Parthia and is killed along with many of his soldiers.

54 BC

Caesar's ten-year command approaches its end. Pompey moves closer to Caesar's critics who wish to prevent him from keeping his army until he can go straight into a second consulship and so be immune from prosecution.

53 BC

Caesar crosses the Rubicon and begins the civil war. He overruns Italy quickly, but Pompey retreats with his inexperienced army to Greece. Caesar goes to Spain and defeats Pompey's lieutenants there.

50 BC

Caesar becomes dictator, but lays down the office and goes to Greece, where he defeats Pompey. Pompey flees to Egypt where he is murdered by Cleopatra's brother, King Ptolemy XIII.



49 BC

Besieged in Alexandria, Caesar's army routs Ptolemy's forces and pursues them. The boy king is found drowned, but it's not known whether his death is accidental or not. Caesar makes Cleopatra ruler.

48 BC

Caesar returns for a brief visit to Rome before hurrying to fight the resurgent Pompeians in North Africa. He defeats them at Thapsus and, in the aftermath, Cato commits suicide. In Rome, Caesar is declared dictator for ten years.

47 BC

Caesar returns to Rome, but is then forced to go to Spain to fight yet another Pompeian army, this time led by Pompey's son Cnaeus. After a hard fight, Caesar wins the war at Munda. On his return to Rome, he is made dictator for life.

46 BC

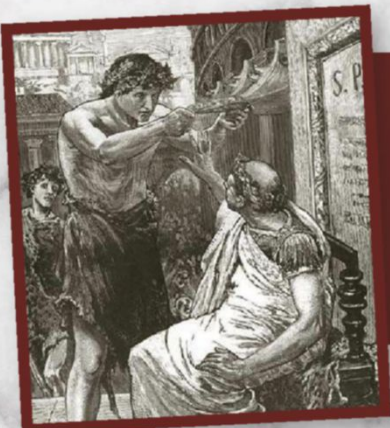
In February, Caesar publicly declines the offer of a royal crown at the Lupercalia Festival. He plans to go east and fight the Parthians, appointing consuls for the next three years, but is murdered days before he is due to depart.

45 BC

A period of frequent civil war, during which all of the conspirators are killed or commit suicide. In the end, only Mark Antony and Octavian (Caesar's nephew and heir) are left. Antony and his lover Cleopatra are beaten at Actium in 31 BC and take their own lives a year later. Octavian becomes Augustus, Rome's first emperor.

44 BC

44-30 BC





PASSION PLAY

Caesar and his lovers

Julius Caesar was married three times. His first wife died, he divorced the second and was survived by the third. Roman aristocrats married to make political alliances and to father legitimate children, but many took other lovers, often professional courtesans. Caesar was unusual because he seduced the wives of other senators, including both Pompey and Crassus.

The longest affair was with Servilia, which appears to have spanned decades. In one tense senatorial meeting, Cato saw a note being slipped to Caesar and assumed that it was something incriminating, so demanded that it be read out aloud. Caesar refused, but finally passed it to Cato who was dismayed to see that it was a passionate love letter to Caesar from Servilia, his sister.

Caesar was not faithful to Servilia any more than he was to his wives. During the dictatorship, she allegedly helped him to conduct an affair with her third daughter, Junia Tertia (or Third). When Servilia bought property at a knock-down price in an auction arranged by Caesar, Cicero joked that she had got "a third off".

Apart from Roman women, Caesar was said to have slept with many aristocratic women in Gaul. In later years, at least one

Gaulic aristocrat boasted that he included an illegitimate son of Caesar among his ancestors. Caesar slept with the Queen of Mauretania, but his most famous royal lover was Cleopatra, more than 30 years his junior. Both were political animals; gaining an advantage added to the genuine passion of the affair.

As far as we know, Cleopatra was a virgin when she met Caesar and was more seduced than seducer. After he had won the war restoring her to power, they spent months cruising along the Nile, before he reluctantly left Egypt to continue the civil war. She came to Rome, shortly before his death, but otherwise they did not see each other again.

For all his serial womanising, a story dogged Caesar that, as a teenager, he had himself been seduced by the elderly King Nicomedes of Bithynia (a Greek kingdom in northern Turkey). Caesar's soldiers joked that "Caesar conquered Gaul, but Nicomedes conquered Caesar". Army humour did not bother him, but the jibes of other senators did. One dubbed him "a husband to women and a wife to men". During the dictatorship, Caesar took a public oath denying any truth in the story - which only made his detractors repeat the slur with more enthusiasm.



SHOCKING SUICIDE
Caesar's great rival Cato took his own life, stabbing himself and removing his entrails



SCREEN ROMANCE
Rex Harrison, as Caesar, attempts to woo Elizabeth Taylor's Egyptian queen in the 1963 epic *Cleopatra*

LIKE FATHER...

Nine months after she first met Caesar, Cleopatra gave birth to a son called Ptolemy Caesar, known as Caesarion ('Little Caesar').

< enemies wanted to prevent this and put Caesar on trial, hoping to disgrace him and end his career. Roman political trials had little to do with the crimes and were more a means of waging vendettas against rivals. Crassus was dead, killed in Parthia in 53 BC, while Pompey drifted ever closer to Cato and the others. The civil war fought from 49-45 BC was not about issues or ideology. Pompey, Cato and the rest were determined to end Caesar's career. Caesar, naturally, was determined to avoid this.

He won because he had a better army, was a better battlefield commander and - as he was the first to admit - because he was lucky. He was also far more generous than his opponents, parading his clemency and pardoning the opponents he captured. Cato, though, refused to accept Caesar's mercy and stabbed himself with a sword. He botched the job, which allowed his son



SET IN STONE
One of Caesar's invasions of Britain, as portrayed in marble. RIGHT: This calendar from 25 AD shows the new system of months brought in by Caesar



IDES OF MARCH

The day of destiny

Caesar's murder occurred on the Ides of March, the 15th day of the month. There were three fixed days in every Roman month – the Kalends on the 1st, the Nones (on either the 5th or 7th depending on the month) and the Ides (on either the 13th or 15th). Other days were noted as the first or the second day (and so on) before or after one of these.

Rome's traditional calendar was based on ten lunar months, supplemented by additional months whenever the priests overseeing the calendar thought necessary. By Caesar's day, it was hopelessly out of sequence with the real seasons, so in 46 BC he introduced a new system, the calculations probably assisted by philosophers from Alexandria. The Julian calendar had 12 months (or 365 days) with an extra day every fourth year. Adjusted by Pope Gregory XIII in the 16th century because it had again moved out of line with the seasons, this is the system in use today.

Rome's political year began in January, named after the god whose statues had two faces looking behind and ahead, and finished in December, the 'tenth' month. Caesar's reform kept these important names, but meant that December was (and is) now in fact the 12th month of the year. As an honour, the Senate renamed the month Quinctilis as July. Later, August was named after Caesar's adopted son the Emperor Augustus.

Cato refused to accept Caesar's mercy, stabbing himself with a sword

to fetch doctors and have the wound sewn up. Once he was left alone, Cato ripped the stitches open and pulled out his own entrails, dying in a final gruesome gesture of opposition to Caesar.

JOB FOR LIFE

Caesar made himself dictator, extending the term of office so that he was voted in for ten years and then for life. He openly dismissed Sulla as "a political illiterate" for resigning, and described the Republic as an empty name. But, unlike Sulla, he treated former opponents generously. He also ruled well. The disorders of the recent decades, and the reluctance of the likes of Cato to let any other senator stand out from the crowd, had meant that many serious problems were ignored and allowed to fester. Caesar threw himself into reform and rebuilding the state with all the energy he had shown as a general.

Rome's institutions began to function again and the provinces were more stable and better run. Even the calendar,



21

The age that Cleopatra was when she and Caesar became lovers. At the time, Caesar was 52

which had fallen badly out of synch with the natural seasons, was replaced.

Few people saw Caesar's government and reforms as bad in themselves. His measures were sensible and, in the main, effective.

For instance, his law regulating the behaviour of provincial governors remained in force for centuries. Yet, for the aristocracy, there was a deep-seated feeling that no one man should have so much power, however well he used it. Caesar's glory and prestige outstripped everyone else's by so large a margin that there seemed little point to the normal competition at the centre of public life. The feeling was especially strong in men like Brutus and Cassius, both in their late 30s and approaching the years when they expected to be at the heart of politics. Caesar was in the way, blocking the path to fame and honours.

Brutus and Cassius had previously both sided with Pompey, Cato and the others. They fought against Caesar at the

start of the civil war, but surrendered in 48 BC after the Battle of Pharsalus where Pompey's legions were routed. Not only did Caesar spare them both, he also rewarded them with office and honours; they did very well out of his regime. The same was true of Decimus Brutus, cousin to the famous Brutus, and Caius Trebonius, both of whom had served Caesar in Gaul and during the civil war. Trebonius was made consul, while the other three were marked down to hold

MASTER AND COMMANDER

Caesar – the legendary general

Roman politicians followed a career mixing military with civil posts, and the greatest glory came from defeating the enemies of the Roman people. Caesar spent less time with the army during his youth than most senators, and when he took command in Gaul in 58 BC, few would have guessed that he would prove such a skilled commander. An excellent horseman, Caesar trained his men hard, leading them in person on route marches in all weathers. He also rewarded them generously whenever they fought well. The Romans believed that he had fought and won more battles than any other commander in history. In battle, he shared the danger, riding from one crisis point to the next, encouraging, giving orders and bringing up reserves to plug a gap or exploit a breakthrough.

Caesar was a bold, aggressive general, but any apparent recklessness was based on careful preparation and a confident assurance that, whatever happened, he and his men would fight their way through. Caesar never gave up and exuded an absolute assurance in final victory. Over time, the bond between general and soldiers reached a fervour only matched by the likes of Napoleon.

During the civil war, his favourite Tenth Legion mutinied because many men were overdue for discharge. Caesar stood before them and called them Quirites or 'Civilians' rather than his usual 'Comrades'. The mutiny collapsed and the soldiers began begging him to execute one in ten as long as he took the rest back into his service.

Caesar was not simply a great commander, but a great writer, whose commentaries on the Gallic and civil wars are classics of military history. He wrote in the third person about himself, while his soldiers were nostri – 'our men' – able to triumph over enemies and nature itself, Caesar is the hero, but one whose actions are often left to the reader's imagination. His accounts were meant for a contemporary audience. Released in the winter after each campaign, they were designed to be read aloud to audiences of Romans who instinctively thrilled to the stories of their boys winning victory after victory.

BATTLE BRAIN

Not only did Caesar possess enormous military acumen, he also recounted his soldiers' campaigns with verve and excitement



60

The estimated number of men who participated in Caesar's assassination in 44 BC

the office in the years to come. That they were given the honour through Caesar's favour rankled with them and many of their contemporaries.

With Brutus, the situation was even more complicated. His mother Servilia was the half-sister of Cato and for decades had carried on an affair with Caesar. There were persistent rumours that Brutus was Caesar's natural son. Although this was untrue, Caesar was fond of him and showed him particular friendship. Even so, Brutus idolised his uncle Cato, also following the stern doctrines of Stoic philosophy. He married Cato's daughter Porcia, who was thus his first cousin, and wrote a book praising his uncle to the skies.

Caesar's only response was his *AntiCato*, painting the philosopher as a mean-spirited drunk, and he continued to show great favour to Brutus. Fully aware that most senators loathed the fact that he was dictator, Caesar thought that they would have enough sense to realise that killing him would only lead to fresh civil war. He was wrong.

Cassius was married to Brutus's sister, Junia Tertia. Gossip suggested that Caesar had bedded her, allegedly

with the connivance of Servilia, but we cannot say whether resentment at this fuelled his hostility.

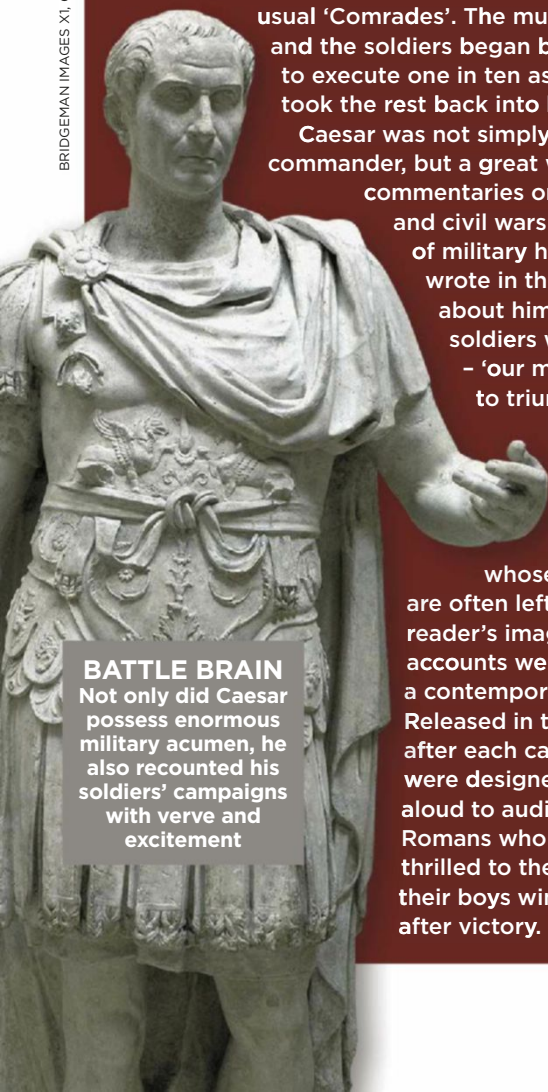
In Brutus's case, a strong sense of guilt surely spurred him on – his adored uncle had died rather than accept Caesar's mercy, whereas he had surrendered and prospered at the price of his principles. Some 60 conspirators began to meet.

Mark Antony was sounded out, but did not join, although nor did he report the matter to Caesar.

Rumours spread that Caesar wanted to be named king, an even more hated title than dictator. He said that he "was not king (rex), but Caesar" – Rex was a family name as well as a title. Not everyone believed him, and there were even wilder stories of his future plans. What was certain was that he was soon to leave for a three-year campaign in the Balkans and then against the Parthians in their heartland (modern Iraq and Iran).

A PLAN IS HATCHED

The plot was well thought-out, but helped because Caesar had dismissed his bodyguard and ignored warnings, including the soothsayer's "Beware the Ides of March!" as immortalised by Shakespeare. Brutus insisted that only



**AFTER THE DEED**

The **conspirators fled the scene** and, according to the Roman historian Suetonius, Caesar's body lay on the ground for some time.

Caesar be killed, but Decimus Brutus brought a force of gladiators to protect them after the deed was done. Antony was drawn off before the Senate met, convening in a temple built by Pompey. As fellow consul, he would have sat beside Caesar and no doubt would have fought to protect him.


Using the excuse of a petition, the conspirators clustered around Caesar. One of them grabbed the dictator's toga and pulled it free from his shoulder as the signal to attack. Another man, Casca, produced a dagger and stabbed Caesar

in the shoulder, prompting an angry response that roughly translates as "Bloody Casca, what are you playing at!" One source says Caesar tried to pull the knife from Casca's hand, another that he drew his sharp stylus pen and jabbed at the conspirators. Casca yelled out for help and the rest of the conspirators clustered around them. In the confusion, several were accidentally stabbed by the other assassins. Brutus received a bad wound in the thigh during the scrimmage. He then stabbed Caesar in

the groin, and this prompted recognition and dismay from the dictator.

There is no evidence for Shakespeare's "Et tu Brute" and instead the dictator spoke in Greek - "Kai su teknon" or "You too, my son", the tone of which is a good deal more aggressive. Caesar went down fighting and only one of his wounds was later judged to be fatal. He collapsed at the base of Pompey's statue, just managing to pull his toga over his face before he died.

The conspirators fled, running to the Capitol, Rome's ancient citadel, where

they were guarded by their gladiators. In the days to come, Brutus tried to rouse the wider population to the cause of liberty, and also distributed money to buy their support. Neither worked. On 18 March, Caesar received a public funeral in the Forum, where Antony riled the crowd to anger against the conspirators. Civil war soon followed, continuing on and off until 30 BC, when Antony killed himself and Caesar's great nephew and adopted son was left as the last man standing. He became Caesar Augustus, Rome's first emperor. 

LAST HOURS

FAR LEFT: Caesar's wife pleads with him not to visit the Senate on 15 March 44 BC
LEFT: The knives are out for Caesar
BELOW: Marc Antony delivers his tribute to Caesar, later immortalised by Shakespeare as the famous 'Friends, Romans, countrymen' speech

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

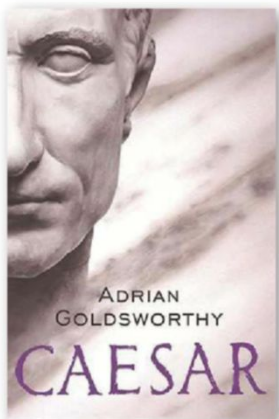
Were Caesar's political opponents justified in expressing their dissatisfaction in this way?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com



GET HOOKED

Want some more? Start your own quest by reading and watching this selection...

BOOKS**CAESAR: LIFE OF A COLOSSUS (2008)**

by *Adrian Goldsworthy*
An extraordinary life, vividly told. Goldsworthy's epic study covers all of the dictator's triumphs - on the battlefield and in the bedroom - as well as exploring just why Caesar remains a compelling figure more than two millennia after his brutal demise.

ALSO READ

- *Rubicon: the Last Years of the Roman Republic (2004)* by Tom Holland
- *The Death of Caesar (2016)* by Barry Strauss
- *SPQR: a History of Ancient Rome (2015)* by Mary Beard

ON SCREEN**JULIUS CAESAR (1953)**

Director Joseph L Mankiewicz took Shakespeare's play to the silver screen, in the process assembling a star-studded cast. John Gielgud played Cassius, James Mason was Brutus and Marlon Brando played Mark Antony.

ALSO SEE

- *Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit (2016)*. In this BBC TV series, the celebrated historian is your guide to the significant locations that defined Ancient Rome
- *Rome (2005-2007)*. A fictionalised, frenetic version of Caesar's life and times

ARENA OF AMBITION

Baron Pierre de Coubertin's decision to resurrect the Olympics had the aim of bringing "the youth of all countries periodically together for amicable trials of muscular strength and agility". The swiftly renovated Panathenaic Stadium in Athens was to be the main location for the event's rebirth



**I OLYMPIADE
ATENE 1896**



THE GAMES REBORN

It took the drive and ambition of one Frenchman to reinstate the Olympics on the sporting calendar. **Nige Tassell** tells the story of Pierre de Coubertin and the first modern Games, held in Athens in 1896

ALAMY X1, GETTY X2, PRESS ASSOCIATION X1



THE FIRST MODERN OLYMPICS

The noise would have been deafening, 60,000 cheering voices resonating around a stadium the shape of an elongated horseshoe. It would have been a noise like no living person had heard before.

And it was a noise that celebrated the deeds of a lowly water-carrier, a young man unknown to the crowd a couple of hours before.

It was late on an afternoon in Athens in 1896 and the occasion was the first edition of the modern Olympics. This young man – Spyros Louis – was making history, about to be elevated to the status of national hero. Here at the Panathenaic Stadium, to the rapturous acclaim of the home nation, Louis was completing an extraordinary sporting triumph. Victory in the marathon, in a shade under three hours, was in the bag.

The celebrations extended beyond the stadium into the surrounding hills. As the American reporter Charles Waldstein would soon observe in the pages of *The Field*, this corner of Athens was “covered with a human crowd that from a distance looked like bees clustering over a comb... this mass of humanity rising in one great shout of joy”.

On crossing the line, Louis was greeted by George I, the King of Greece, standing to applaud. For a nation claimed to be Europe’s most bankrupt, his victory was a focus for national unity. As Waldstein noted, the occasion reached back into Ancient Greek history. “It might almost have been Philippides of old bringing to the anxious inhabitants of Athens the news of their glorious victory, the salvation of their country and home.”

Waldstein wasn’t the only non-Greek enthralled by proceedings. The man whose vision, energy and powers of persuasion had brought about the return of the Olympics – the diminutive Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin – was caught up in the excitement too. He later described how the Athenian audience



112

The number of years that golf has been absent from the Olympics. It is being reintroduced at this summer’s Games in Rio

ATHENS WAS THE OBVIOUS LOCATION FROM WHERE TO LAUNCH THE MODERN GAMES

“rose to its feet like one man, swayed by extraordinary excitement”, before “a flight of white pigeons was let loose, women waved fans and handkerchiefs, and some of the spectators who were nearest to Louis left their seats, and tried to reach him and carry him in triumph”.

ETERNAL DREAMER

This dramatic, irresistible achievement was the culmination of Coubertin’s relentless dreaming. Despite his comparative youth (he was only 33 at the time of these first modern Olympic Games), he’d been campaigning for an international multi-sport event for

years. And, as unlikely as it might sound, a major inspiration for such a display of global athleticism could be found in the lush countryside of Shropshire.

The Wenlock Olympian Games, held in the market town of Much Wenlock, had been established in 1850 by a local doctor named William Penny Brookes, who was attempting to promote moral, physical and intellectual well-being among the community. The events at those first Games included athletics, football, cricket and quoits. Brookes’ creation was well-established by the time Coubertin paid him a visit in 1890. Fired up by a sporting festival

TIMELINE

From Coubertin to Comăneci and from Spitz to Super Saturday, the modern Olympics have undeniably come a long way in 120 years...



1896

The brainchild of Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin, the first modern Olympics are held in Athens. There are no gold medals; the winners each receive a silver medal, an olive branch and a diploma.



1900

The modern Olympics move to France for their second incarnation. Denied entry four years earlier, female athletes are permitted to take part for the first time.

1908

In the men’s marathon at the London Olympics, Italian chef Dorando Pietri is first to finish, despite collapsing five times in the last 400 metres. He is disqualified for being helped over the line.



1924

In the race depicted so evocatively in the film *Chariots of Fire*, flying Scotsman Eric Liddell breaks the world and Olympic records in the men’s 400m at the Paris Games.





ANCIENT AND MODERN

How faithful were the 1896 Games to the original Olympics?

When Baron Pierre de Coubertin and the newly formed International Olympic Committee reinstated the Olympics in 1896, they very much took the ancient Olympics, held between around 776 BC and AD 394, as their template. What is known these days as athletics – running, jumping, throwing – formed the foundation of the modern Olympics, with certain disciplines, such as the marathon and the discus, a fixture of the Games from both antiquity and the 21st century.

In 1896, some events were given a modern re-rub. Boxing, popular during the ancient Olympics, was replaced by the more noble pursuit of fencing, while chariot-racing – not

the hottest of pastimes in the closing years of the 19th century – saw its place taken by the more appropriate sport of cycling (both track and road racing).

Some changes were more fundamental than these. The ancient Olympics were largely Greek-only affairs (although there were exceptions to this, especially in the Roman era when future Emperor Tiberius was victorious in the four-horse chariot race). Coubertin, on the other hand, very much saw the modern Games as providing the opportunity for international competition.

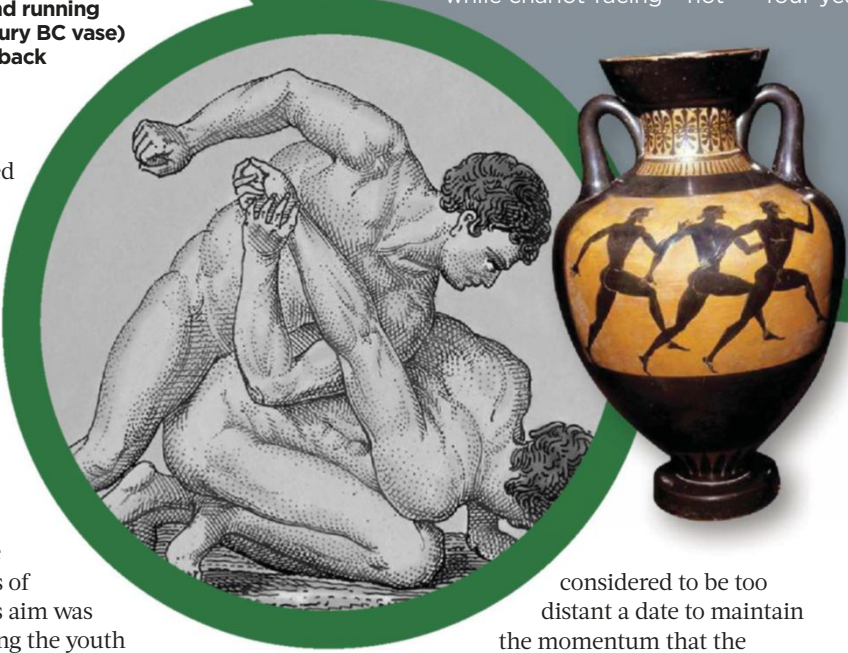
Born out of this, the baron was also keen for the Olympics to travel, for the hosting of the Games to be shared around competing nations every four years. Greece, handed the symbolic hosting of the 1896 event, wanted the Games to be permanently based in Athens, but the Frenchman's internationalist resolve won out. It may not have been coincidence that the second city to welcome the modern Games was Coubertin's own home of Paris.

ON YOUR MARKS

ABOVE: The Usain Bolts of their day line up for 1896's 100m sprint
LEFT: The Athens crowds make their way to the stadium
FAR LEFT: William Penny Brookes, founder of the Wenlock Olympian Games
RIGHT: Wrestling and running (seen in a fifth-century BC vase) were both brought back

held specially in his honour, the Frenchman returned to Paris where he set up the International Olympic Committee and proceeded to lobby for assistance to organise a truly international equivalent of what he'd seen in Much Wenlock – to revive the Olympic Games of Ancient Greece. His aim was a noble one: "to bring the youth of all countries periodically together for amicable trials of muscular strength and agility".

In 1894, Coubertin's committee held a congress at the Sorbonne in Paris, where those who shared his vision helped draw up plans for the inaugural modern Olympics. Initially intended to take place in Paris to coincide with the 1900 World Fair, that six-year gap was



considered to be too distant a date to maintain the momentum that the Olympic movement was gathering.

Instead, a decision was made to hold the event within two years, and that Athens was the obvious and symbolic location from where to launch the updated version.

Greece, far from the most economically stable of European countries, received assistance from the legacies of a pair of philanthropists

– Evangelis and Konstantinos Zappas. The cousins had been involved in multi-sport events in their own country earlier in the 19th century and their respective estates helped finance major projects, such as the restoration of the Panathenaic Stadium.

In the two years between the announcement and the start of the Games, Athens worked its collective socks off to get itself ready for the spectacle, to honour the weight of expectation on its shoulders. The building programme was both swift in its execution and impressive in its results. The pavilions and boathouses for the rowing competition were particularly praised, even if the poor weather of early April meant the cancellation of both the rowing and sailing events. Although painted wood had to replace the marble that had been specified in the

1928

The eternal flame, the potent symbol of Olympic ideals, is lit for the first time. The torch relay isn't introduced for another eight years.



1936

Adolf Hitler wants to use the Berlin Olympics as proof of Aryan racial superiority, a notion undone by black American athlete Jesse Owens who collects four gold medals.

1948

In the first Olympics since World War II (dubbed the 'Austerity Games'), Dutch mother-of-two Fanny Blankers-Koen comfortably wins four track-and-field golds at Wembley Stadium.

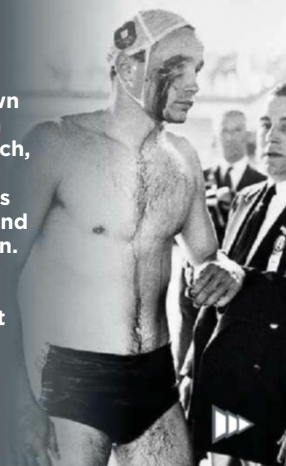


1952

At the Helsinki Games, the Czech runner Emil Zátopek performs an extraordinary feat – winning the 5,000m, the 10,000m and the marathon. It is the first time that he has raced over 26.2 miles.

1956

In a water polo encounter known as the 'Blood In The Water' match, violence erupts between players from Hungary and the Soviet Union. It comes just a month after an uprising against Soviet control of Hungary is viciously suppressed.



EYE ON THE SKY

The javelin event at the 1954 Stoke Mandeville Games

RIGHT: Ludwig Guttman, the architect of the Paralympics

THE PARALLEL PARALYMPICS

How a modest event grew into a truly global spectacle

Just as the modern Olympics took at least part of its inspiration from a modest multi-sport event in provincial England (see *main feature*), so too did the Paralympics. Its forerunner was the Stoke Mandeville Games, held at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury to coincide with the 1948 London Olympics.

They were the brainchild of Ludwig Guttman, a German-Jewish neurologist who had fled Nazi Germany and who ending up running the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville. He envisaged the establishment of an international tournament for disabled athletes that would mirror the Olympics. The first Games were rather modest, comprising solely of a team of wheelchair-bound archers drawn from paralysed British World War II veterans.

Four years later, the hoped-for international dimension evolved when a group of Dutch war veterans took part in the event, by now known as the International Stoke Mandeville Games. By 1960, Guttman's plans were nearing completion, with the Games held in Rome and re-badged as the first Paralympic Games. Entry was extended beyond ex-soldiers and in the region of 400 athletes from 23 countries participated. While the infrastructure of the Eternal City wasn't as Paralympian-friendly as that of future host cities, athletes successfully competed across a range of sports, including snooker, swimming, fencing, javelin and Indian club throwing.

The Games, held every Olympic year, continued to grow. In 1976, entry was widened to include not just wheelchair athletes but amputees

and the visually impaired could now join the sporting extravaganza. In the years since, the Paralympics have become increasingly sophisticated and professional – after the Seoul event in 1988, one senior official noted how the competitors were now being regarded as “athletes rather than patients”.

Dr Guttman, who died in 1980, would surely have been thrilled by the Paralympics' return to the UK in 2012, when 4,237 competitors fought it out across 20 sports. And – in a neat touch that tipped its hat to the Games' rather smaller origins – its official mascot was called Mandeville.

41

The number of Paralympic gold medals won by the blind US swimmer Trischa Zorn between 1980 and 2004



1968

In the thin air of high-altitude Mexico City, American long jumper Bob Beamon smashes the world record by nearly two feet. The jump is actually further than the measuring equipment can reach.

1972

American swimmer Mark Spitz wins seven gold medals in the pool, but the Munich Games are overshadowed by the killing of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches by Palestinian terrorists.

1976

In the gymnastics hall at the Montreal Olympics, the Romanian Nadia Comăneci becomes the first Olympian to be awarded a perfect 10 score.



1980

The US boycotts the Moscow Olympics in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. On the track, the long-awaited, two-race duel between British middle-distance runners Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe ends with a gold medal apiece.



EN GARDE
Greek and French fencers
face off at the grand
Zappeion building in Athens



RAISING THE BAR
Hermann Weingärtner's set on
the horizontal bar helps the
German team win two golds



YOUNG AMERICANS
The Princeton University track
and field team – American
students shone at the Games

original plans, the Panathenaic Stadium was just about ready for competition despite, just two years earlier, the site having – in Coubertin's words – “resembled a deep gash, made by some fabled giant”. The public was tuned in too, the mood both celebratory and expectant, exemplified by Athens's public buildings being draped in bunting and streamers.

The Games opened on the 75th anniversary of Greek independence. Two hundred and forty-one athletes, from 14 nations, competed across nine sports – athletics, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. Each and every athlete was male, though, with Coubertin's energy and drive sadly matched by a misplaced chauvinism. Prior to the Games, he declared that the participation of women would be “impractical, uninteresting, unaesthetic and incorrect”. Fortunately, this attitude didn't prevail. The prohibition would be lifted in time for the second modern Games four years later, held in the Baron's home city of Paris.

AWKWARD SQUAD

Britain wasn't exactly in a rush to commune with Coubertin's feast of sport. In the words of Olympic historian David Randall, British sporting administrators were fully paid-up members of “the European awkward squad”, conspicuously inert when it came to ramping up enthusiasm for the Olympics' modern rebirth. Not only were there no attempts to

create a national team, but also any recruitment drive to sign up individual athletes was invisible. Non-existent, in fact.

The Americans had looked to the established athletes of Ivy League universities to fill the berths on the boat to Greece. Britain had a ready-made equivalent – the sport-friendly colleges of Oxford and Cambridge – but these weren't plundered for talent. “No approaches were made,” explains Randall, “and of the few Oxford men who did compete in Athens, one saw a note on a college noticeboard, one had Greek friends who told him of the Games, and another saw a small advertisement in the shop window of travel agent Thomas Cook.”

Fewer than ten Brits made the trip to Athens, and of those that did, commitment could be found, on occasion, to be wanting. Thomas Curtis, an American high-hurdler, later recalled how one beaten British athlete “stopped neither to linger nor to say farewell, but went from the stadium to the station and took the first train out of Athens”.

In sharp contrast, every American, whether athlete or spectator, threw themselves into proceedings with gusto. The warship *San Francisco* was in port, allowing its crew

to become enthusiastic supporters of US competitors across the track-and-field disciplines. Members of the Boston Athletic Association were also in good number, lending loud vocal encouragement whenever one of their athletes came out to compete. “B.A.A! Rah! Rah! Rah!”

Although these first modern Games weren't organised along the lines of national teams, the Americans nonetheless took more individual victories than any other nation, although Greek athletes won the most medals. Rather than the gold medals with which the Games would subsequently be associated, winners were presented with silver medals, an olive branch and a diploma.

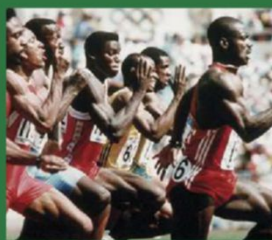
Along with their sporting prowess, the hosts were commended for the way they had received all competitors, irrespective of where they were from. Writing a month after the Games ended, Charles Waldstein was quick to praise, breathlessly reporting of “the generous joy and enthusiasm which moved the Greeks and all the visitors at each victory, to whatever nation it might have fallen”.

The greatest reception, understandably, was for the heroics of Louis, the marathon runner. Coubertin's recollection of what happened in the minutes following the young Greek's monumental victory is acute and vivid. “A lady who stood next to me unfastened her watch,

COUBERTIN SAW WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AS SIMPLY “INCORRECT”

1984

Carl Lewis emulates his compatriot Jesse Owens' 1936 feat by winning gold in the same four events – 100m, 200m, long jump and 4x100m relay.



1988

Canadian Ben Johnson smashes the world 100m record, but is stripped of the title three days later after failing a drugs test.

1992

With professional basketball players now allowed to compete at the Olympics, the US draws its team for Barcelona from the NBA. Containing the likes of Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley, they unsurprisingly coast to glory.



1996

Andre Agassi is victorious in the men's tennis tournament at the Atlanta Games, the first man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic gold.



THE CRAZY SPORTS OF 1900

What happened when the Olympics came to Paris...

Held in Paris in 1900, the second incarnation of the modern Games pushed the definition of sport into new areas. With the Games part of the World's Fair, many new events were introduced, plenty of which were, frankly, bizarre. Until 1924, host nations were allowed to determine which sports could be included – and the French got very creative.

Tug of war, which made its debut at Paris and was a fixture of the Games until 1920, seems quite tame

in comparison to what else was on the bill of fare. There was the swimming obstacle race, where competitors had to plunge into the River Seine, climb up and down a pole before clambering over and under a flotilla of boats. Another ill-fated event was the standing triple jump made its one and only appearance in the athletics stadium in 1900.

Animals were also involved in two of the newly introduced events. Perhaps unsurprisingly, live pigeon shooting never appeared again after Paris, where 300 birds were killed, 21 of them shot down by the winner, Léon de Lunden of Belgium.

And then there were a pair of new equestrian events – the horse high jump and the horse long jump. Belgium again won the latter event, although the winning leap of just over six metres was actually shorter than the human long jump record.

While many of these disciplines would never appear again, there was one lasting, highly significant legacy of the 1900 Games: women were allowed to take part, competing in croquet, equestrian, golf, tennis and sailing.



OLYMPIC ODDITIES

TOP: Tug of war was a hotly contested event at five Olympics
BOTTOM: Léon de Lunden, winner of live pigeon shooting

1:53

The ratio of female-to-male athletes at the 1908 Olympics, eight years after women were first allowed to compete

◀ a gold one with pearls, and sent it to him; an innkeeper presented him with an order good for three hundred and sixty-five free meals; and a wealthy citizen had to be dissuaded from signing a cheque for ten thousand francs to his credit. Louis himself, however, when he was told of this generous offer, refused it. The sense of honour, which is very strong in the Greek peasant, thus saved the non-professional spirit from a very great danger.”

In that one act of polite refusal, Louis had crystallised the amateur values that placed glory over reward, principles that would define the Olympic movement for many decades to come. Indeed, Waldstein was another who cautioned against the possibly poisonous effects

of professionalism on the young champion. “He is as yet quite simple and unspoilt, and we must hope that his success will not turn his head.”

Alongside preserving the purity of sporting endeavour, Coubertin saw enough in these first Games to be optimistic about the spirit of internationalism he saw as essential to the event's future success. “On the world at large the Olympic Games have, of course, exerted no influence as yet, but I am profoundly convinced that they will do so.”

And he was aiming beyond sport. “Should the institution prosper – as I am persuaded, all civilised nations aiding, that it will – it may be a potent, if indirect, factor in securing universal peace.”



IT'S ALL GREEK
From humble origins, Spyros Louis becomes a national hero for winning the marathon

GETTY X6



2000

In Sydney, 400m runner Cathy Freeman becomes the first Aboriginal Australian to win an Olympic track title. In rowing, Steve Redgrave takes gold for a fifth successive Olympics.



2008

Jamaica's Usain Bolt dominates the headlines at the Beijing Olympics, becoming the only man to break both the 100m and 200m world records at the same Games.



2012

The home nation has plenty to celebrate in London on the day now forever known as ‘Super Saturday’. In the space of an hour, three British athletes – Jessica Ennis (heptathlon), Greg Rutherford (long jump) and Mo Farah (10,000m) – all take gold.





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Whoops to Wow!

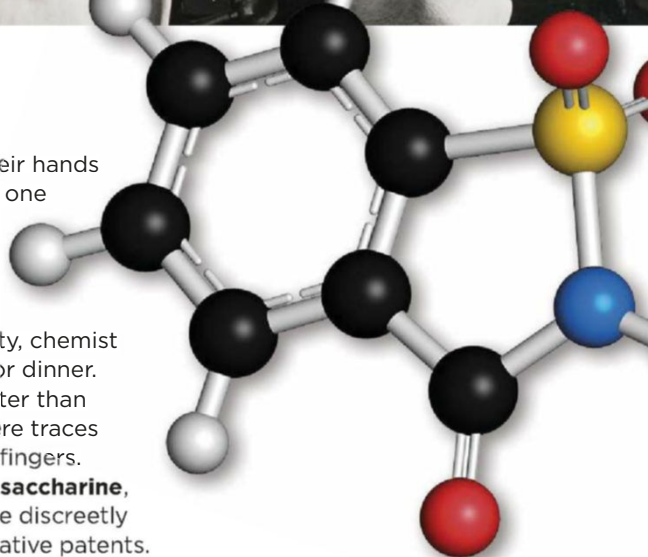
A great deal of hard work, time and frustration goes into world-changing discoveries – not to mention a wink from lady luck



SWEET TOOTH

Scientists should know to wash their hands when working with chemicals, but one Russian's less-than-fastidious hygiene turned out to be a sweet surprise. After a day, in 1878, analysing uses of coal tar at Johns Hopkins University, chemist Constantin Fahlberg went home for dinner.

Thinking the food tasted sweeter than normal, he realised there were traces of a compound left on his fingers. Fahlberg had discovered **saccharine**, an artificial sweetener. He discreetly lodged some highly lucrative patents.



FAST FOOD

Percy Spencer's discovery may sound like a scene from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. In 1946, the physicist was working on a radar project for the American defence contractor Raytheon. As he stood in front of his magnetron, he felt a sticky sensation in his pocket – his peanut cluster bar had melted. But why? Curious, he placed corn kernels in front of the magnetron, where it popped almost instantly, becoming popcorn. Spencer was a hero to the corporation bigwigs who, within years, marketed the first **microwave oven**.



After Art Fry had his lightbulb moment over his colleague's accidental invention, his company released it, initially with the name 'Press 'n Peel'

FIRST POST

This is two accidents in one discovery. Working for the 3M corporation in 1968, American Spencer Silver had the brief to develop a seriously strong glue. He came up with the opposite – a solution low in strength, but potentially reusable. It didn't have an obvious use until, six years later, a colleague named Art Fry thought the weak adhesive would make an ideal bookmark for his hymn book at choir practice. With that brainwave, the **Post-it note** was born. The product's now-iconic colour came about by chance too, as there was only yellow paper available to hand in the lab back in 1974.

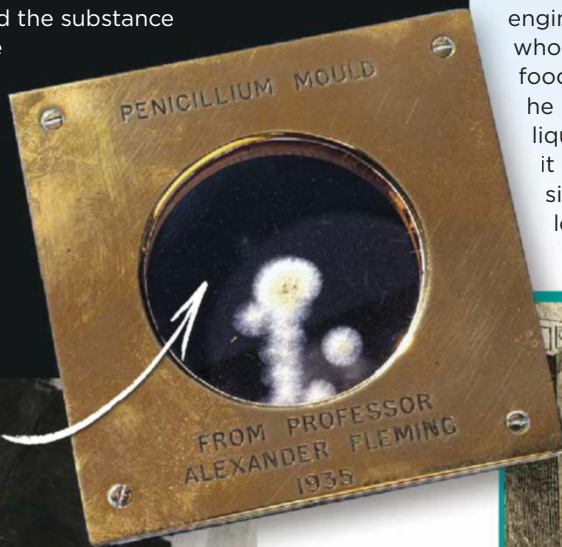
NON-STICKY SITUATION

Although sometimes attributed to NASA, cooks have Roy J Plunkett to thank for **Teflon**. In 1938, the scientist at DuPont was experimenting with new refrigerants when he noticed one of his gas canisters to be empty, apart from flakes of a white powdery substance. Tests showed this residue was not only heat-resistant but that few substances stuck to it. Quickly patented, it was initially used as part of the Manhattan Project, engaged in nuclear weapon research. It took French engineer Marc Grégoire to apply its non-stickiness to domestic cookware, revolutionising the practice of amateur chefs.



BREAKING THE MOULD

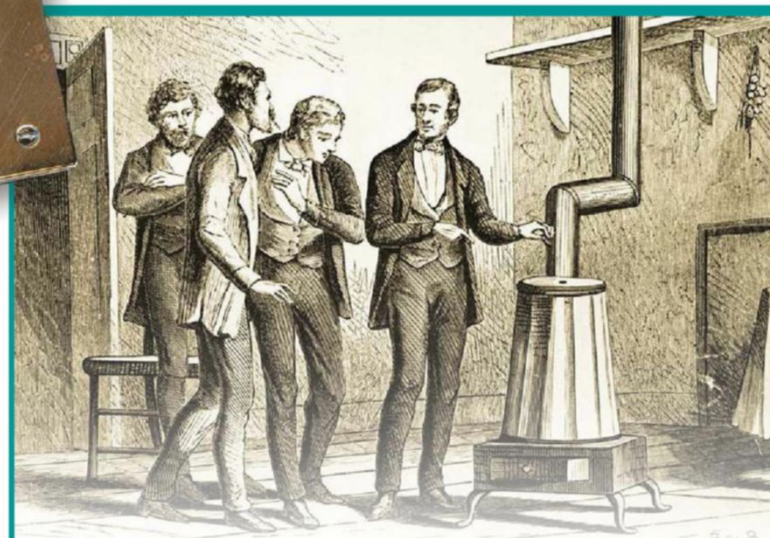
This is arguably the most famous of history's accidental discoveries, and it came from dirty dishes. As he prepared to take a holiday in 1928, the Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming left some *staphylococcus* bacteria on a tray in his London lab. When he returned, Fleming found the bacteria had spread, save for a patch of mould that was preventing further growth. He called the substance **penicillin**. "When I woke up just after dawn on September 28, 1928, I certainly didn't plan to revolutionise all medicine by discovering the world's first antibiotic," he later explained. "But I suppose that was exactly what I did."



Fleming had few skills as a promoter, so it took a while for his findings to spread. Penicillin did not start to be mass produced until the 1940s

WRAPPERS' DELIGHT

It's an everyday product whose magical properties – flexible yet strong – we take for granted. But no-one actually set out to create **cellophane**. It was a Swiss engineer called Jacques E Brandenberger who inadvertently discovered the fresh-food wrapping. After witnessing a diner spill wine at a restaurant, he had set about inventing a waterproof tablecloth. The use of a liquid viscose didn't fit the bill as it was too stiff, but, on peeling it off, he discovered that the coating could be removed as a single piece of transparent film. Brandenberger had become a legend in his own lunchtime.



VULCANISED RUBBER

In its natural state, rubber can rot and smell. For many years, American inventor Charles Goodyear tried to make a more durable substance. In 1839, he finally found success – by accident. Inadvertently brushing rubber powder and sulphur from his hands, it landed on a hot stove. The melting rubber reacted with the sulphur and became vulcanised – leading to Goodyear becoming a pioneer in the tyre industry.

THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

All John Pemberton intended with his French Wine Coca was a cure for his addiction. The pharmacist had served as a Confederate lieutenant colonel in the American Civil War, where he received injuries from a sabre to the chest and had grown dependent on pain-relieving morphine. With the introduction of local prohibition legislation in the mid-1880s, he altered his drink to make a non-alcoholic version instead, and called it **Coca-Cola**. Its morphine-busting properties weren't apparent, though. Pemberton died a poor addict prior to his creation becoming the world's bestselling drink.



THE WINNER FLAKES IT ALL

John Harvey Kellogg may be angry to see how his invention is consumed today. As superintendent of a Michigan sanitarium, he promoted bland, vegetarian foods as a way of controlling the urges of his patients. One day in 1894, he and his brother cooked some wheat and left it to cool, but when they returned, it had gone stale and flaky. He thought he'd give them a go, once toasted, with the patients – who appeared appreciative. A patent for 'Flaked Cereals and Process of Preparing Same' was filed the following year and **Corn Flakes** were born.



THE ONLY WAY IS UP

Nothing special was expected of the drug known by the prosaic name of 'UK92480'. Developed by British scientists working for pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer, it aimed to ease the pain of angina sufferers, and when tried out in the early 1990s, the results weren't exactly overwhelming. But the drug did provoke an altogether unexpected physical reaction for the male members of its testing group. The drug went to market as soon as regulations permitted and it became one of the best-known tablets of the last two decades. Its name? **Viagra**.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

History is rife with beneficial blunders – what are some of the ones we missed?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com





PARADISE FOUND

Captain James Cook's three voyages greatly enlightened the Western world about life in the South Pacific

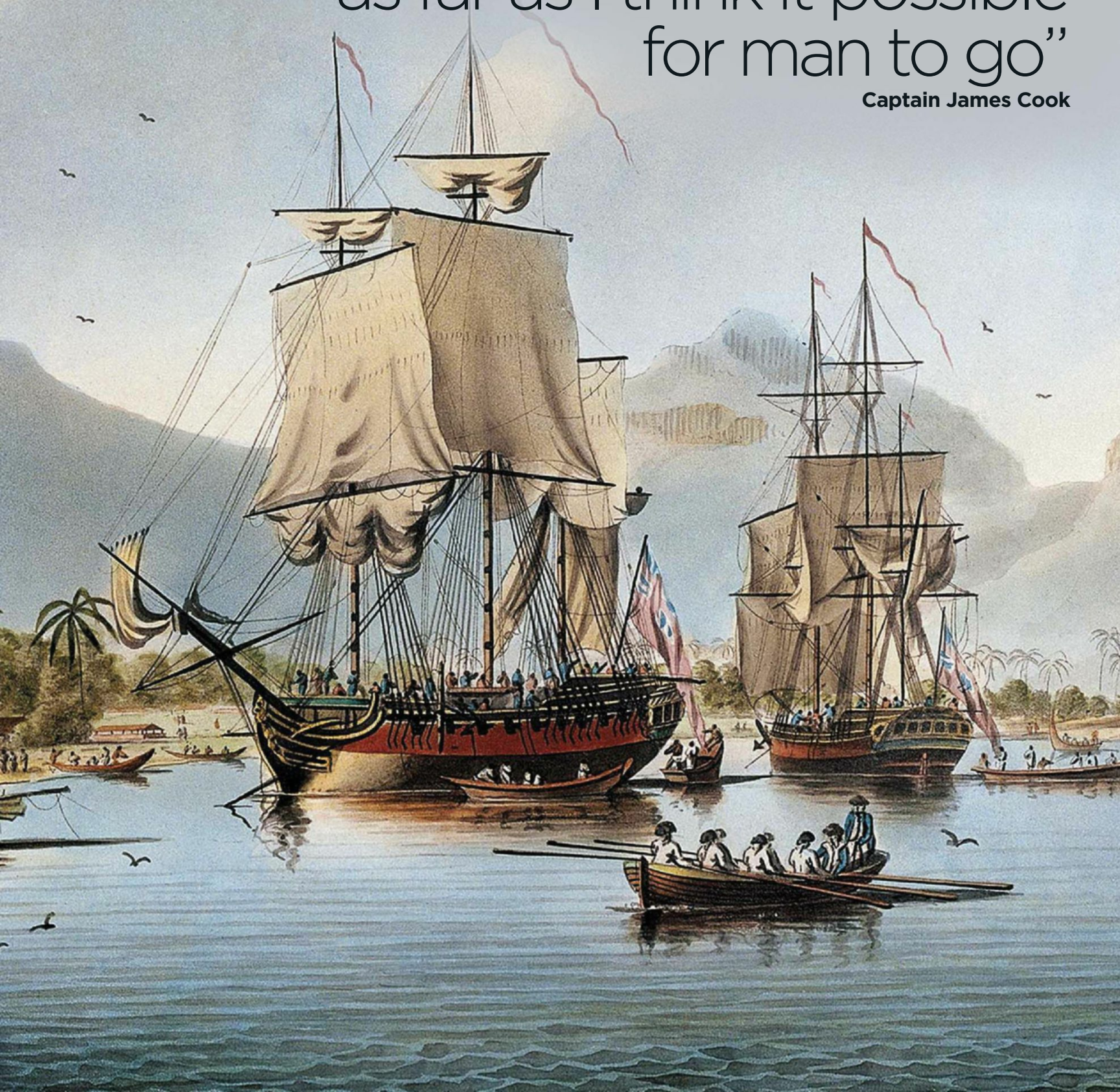
THE MAN WHO REDREW THE MAP

As **Pat Kinsella** explains, Captain James Cook's globe-spanning voyages not only revealed previously uncharted lands, but were also packed with adventure and bloodshed

GETTY X3

**“Ambition leads me
not only farther than
any other man has
been before me, but
as far as I think it possible
for man to go”**

Captain James Cook





GREAT ADVENTURES CAPTAIN COOK

Captain James Cook rose from humble beginnings in Yorkshire to become the most accomplished explorer of his age. A taciturn man, he was nonetheless a natural leader and diplomat, held in high esteem even by England's many enemies in a violent era. He managed to negotiate peacefully with the great majority of indigenous communities he encountered during his globe-defining adventures.

Cook's journeys and discoveries had a profound impact on the fortunes of millions of people. He christened countless natural features around the planet, while his own name now adorns numerous places and landmarks around the world he circled several times. But his ultimate fate was as gory and inglorious as it was untimely.

By the time Cook embarked on his third and final fateful expedition, he had already circumnavigated the planet twice and added thousands of miles of new coastline to the world map – so accurately, in fact, that some of his charts were still being used well into the 20th century.

Technically, Cook had hung up his captain's hat once he'd returned from his second major

voyage in 1775, but the explorer embraced retirement reluctantly and made it well known to the Admiralty that he was looking for another opportunity to hit the high seas.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

The restless Yorkshireman didn't have to wait long for his chance. Within a year, Cook spotted an opportunity to have a crack at finding, navigating and charting the elusive North West Passage, a hypothetical sea route between the north Atlantic and north Pacific. London merchants were waiting desperately for someone to unlock the passage, so they could easier trade with the Far East.

Cook's orders were to find a western way through the Bering Strait, starting from the north Pacific, but since his expedition was taking place during a politically sensitive time – with Britain engaged in the American Revolutionary War – his true objective was kept under wraps. As a cover, the voyage was reportedly explained as a mission of mercy, to return a young Raiatean man named Omai (who had been brought to England by Captain Tobias Furneaux during Cook's second expedition)

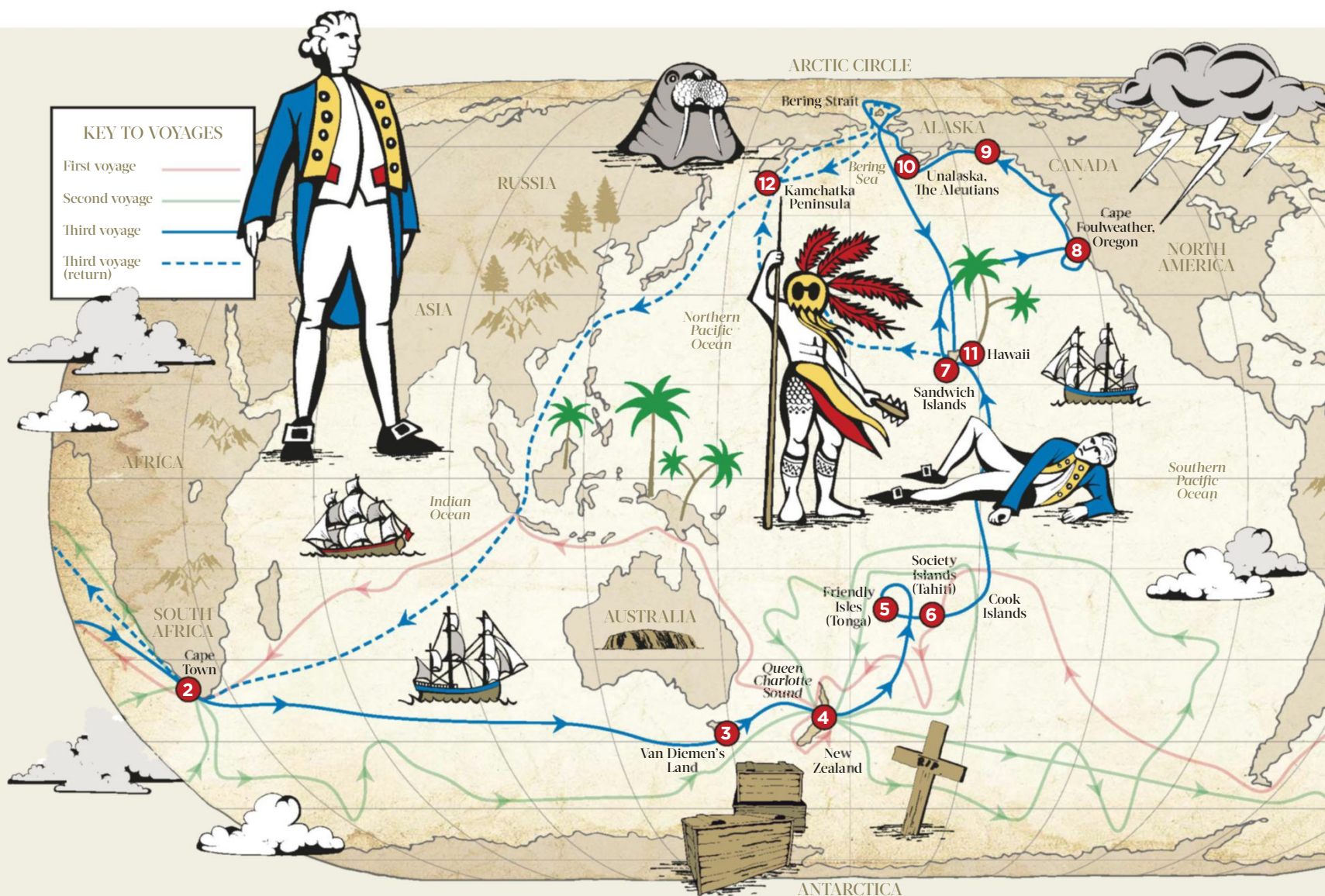
DID YOU KNOW?

The final NASA Space Shuttle was named after HMS *Endeavour*, the ship on which Cook first navigated the globe.

back to his homeland of Huahine in the Society Islands. As on his

previous voyage, Cook took charge of HMS *Resolution*, sailing from Plymouth in July 1776. After resupplying in the Canary Islands, he made an extended stop off in Cape Town, where the leaky ship was re-caulked and where he was joined by Captain Charles Clerke, in command of HMS *Discovery*.

Leaving South Africa in early December, the two ships travelled east across the Indian Ocean, where Cook spotted and named the Prince Edward Islands. This was despite the fact that the archipelago had already been discovered and named by French explorer Marc-Joseph Marion du Fresne four years earlier. Du Fresne had subsequently been killed by New Zealand Maori, and his second-in-command Jules Crozet blabbed news of the islands to Cook while they were in Cape Town on a previous voyage,





ALIEN INVASION

LEFT: Cook lands on Van Diemen's Land ABOVE: A crew member's drawing, possibly of Cook being presented with a lobster by a native

but the Englishman had missed them that time around.

Wafted by powerful westerly winds, the expedition reached Tasmania – then called Van Diemen's Land – on 26 January. Coincidentally, the date would later be known as Australia Day, after events that unfolded exactly 11 years later, when the First Fleet arrived in Sydney under Captain Arthur Phillip,

their destination directly influenced by reports from Cook's second voyage.

After restocking, the expedition continued east to New Zealand, which Cook had circumnavigated aboard the *Endeavour* during his first voyage, proving that it wasn't part of the fabled Terra Australis. The explorer also visited New Zealand on his second expedition and, during that trip, Captain Tobias Furneaux, in command of the *Adventure*, had lost several men in a violent encounter with a group of Māori.

FRIEND OR FOE?

The locals in Queen Charlotte Sound were reportedly nervous when they witnessed the white men's ships returning, thinking they'd come to exact revenge, but the two-week

THE MAIN PLAYERS

JAMES COOK

Born into a farm-labouring family in the village of Marton, Yorkshire, in 1728, James Cook worked as a grocers' apprentice before first going to sea aged 17 on a coal-hauling ship. After years of graft in the merchant navy, he volunteered for the Royal Navy in 1755 and saw action during the Seven Years' War.



CHARLES CLERKE

Sailed with Cook on all three of his major voyages. For Cook's third expedition, Clerke captained the *Discovery*. He took command of the entire expedition when Cook was killed, but never made it back to England, dying at sea of tuberculosis on his 38th birthday.



OMAI

Having been picked up from Huahine by Commander Tobias Furneaux in August 1773, during Cook's second expedition, Omai was used as a translator. He travelled back to England aboard HMS *Adventure*, meeting King George III at least once. Cook returned him to the Society Islands in 1777.



CAPTAIN'S COOK THIRD VOYAGE

Cook's final voyage is inevitably best known for his discovery of Hawaii, as well as his death at the hands of its inhabitants. But arguably the biggest achievement of the great surveyor's third major journey of exploration was the highly detailed mapping he completed of North America's northwest coast. His charts led to the inclusion of the now-familiar coastline of Canada and Alaska on world maps for the first time, closing the gap between the known extent of the New World and Russia.



1 12 JULY 1776 Plymouth, England

The *Resolution* sets sail from England, under the command of Cook, who is ostensibly tasked with returning Omai to the Society Islands. He sails via Tenerife to Cape Town. The *Discovery*, captained by Charles Clerke, leaves in August.

2 1 DECEMBER 1776 Cape Town

The *Resolution* and the *Discovery* leave southern Africa together, having both undergone repairs, including re-caulking.

3 26 JANUARY 1777 Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

The expedition stops off to take on supplies of wood, water and food. The crew encounter Aboriginal people.

4 12 FEBRUARY 1777 Queen Charlotte Sound, New Zealand

Sailing into a tense atmosphere, after the death of several crew members at the hands of Māori during his previous expedition (albeit when he wasn't there), Cook defuses the situation by befriending the attackers.

5 28 APRIL–MID JULY 1777 Friendly Isles (Tonga)

After discovering and stopping off at Mangaia and Palmerston Island in what's now known as the

Cook Islands, the expedition washed up in the Friendly Isles, where they were afforded an appropriately warm welcome by locals, and didn't feel like moving on for several months.

6 12 AUGUST 1777 Society Islands (Tahiti)

After finally dropping off Omai back home (or at least in the right neighbourhood), the first part of Cook's mission was complete. However, he'd missed his chance to attempt the Northwest Passage in 1777 and had the luxury of hanging out in a Pacific paradise for a bit longer before heading into the freezer.

7 18 JANUARY 1778 Sandwich Islands (Hawaii)

Cook and his crew become the first Europeans to visit the islands now known as Hawaii, which he names the Sandwich Islands.

8 MARCH 1778 Cape Foulweather, Oregon coast

Bidding the Sun goodbye, the expedition sails across the north Pacific and hits the American mainland amid terrible storms.

9 APRIL–AUGUST 1778 Canadian and Alaskan coast

For months, Cook crawls along the west of present-day Canada and Alaska, completing highly accurate mapping of the coastline and looking for

a passage north into the Bering Strait. They pass into the Arctic Circle on 11 August 1778, but are ultimately frustrated and forced back south.

10 2 OCTOBER 1778 Unalaska, the Aleutians

The expedition makes another forced stop for repairs, with both ships being re-caulked.

11 NOVEMBER–FEBRUARY 1778 Sandwich Islands (Hawaii)

The ships head south to escape the winter, first spotting Maui in the Sandwich Islands on 26 November. They circumnavigate the big island of Hawaii before landing at Kealahou Bay on 17 January 1779, where they're greeted as gods. The relationship deteriorates, though, and they depart the islands after a month, but are forced to return after a storm damages the *Resolution*. Tensions escalate, resulting in a violent melee, which ends in the death of Cook and several others.

12 MARCH–AUGUST 1779 Northern Pacific and the Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia

Under the command of Captain Clerke, the expedition makes another failed attempt to find a Northwest Passage. Clerke dies in August, leaving John Gore and James King to lead the expedition home via Japan, Macao and Cape Town, reaching Britain in October 1780.



THE EARLIER ADVENTURES

James Cook sharp-tuned his famous surveying capabilities during the Seven Years' War. The quality of his Saint Lawrence River charts, drawn during the siege of Quebec City, attracted the attention of the British Admiralty, ultimately leading to his first commission as a captain.

The declared objective of his first quest was to sail into the heart of the Pacific to observe and record the 1769 transit of Venus. Cook's *Endeavour* left England in August 1768, rounded Cape Horn and reached Tahiti for the transit.

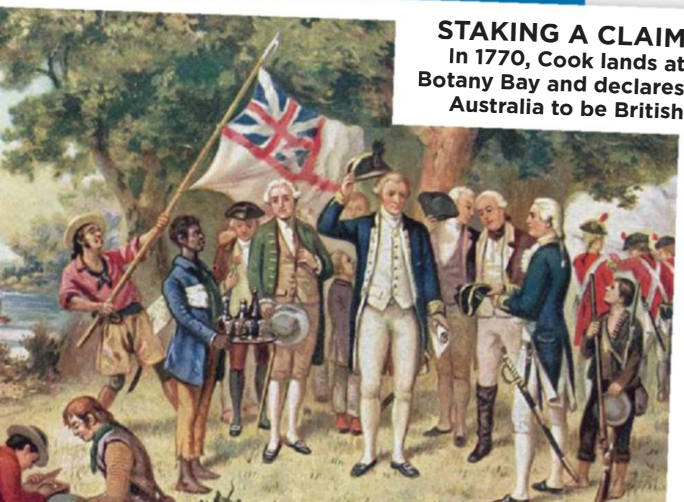
He then began the second, more secretive part of his mission: the search for the mysterious southern continent of Terra Australis. Dutch explorer Abel Tasman had already discovered parts of Australia and New Zealand, but myths about a massive, single southern landmass endured.

With one ship, Cook proceeded to add 5000 miles of coastline to the world map, accurately charting both islands of New Zealand, the entire east coast of Australia (crashing into the Great Barrier Reef en route, before landing at Botany Bay and controversially claiming the entire continent for Britain) and sailing through the Torres Strait, proving that New Guinea and New Holland (Australia) were separate.

He completed his first global circumnavigation by rounding the Cape of Good Hope and sailing up the west coast of Africa, arriving in England in July 1771.

However, Terra Australis had neither been confirmed nor disproved, and Cook was dispatched on a second expedition to decide the debate. He left England on the *Resolution* in July 1772, accompanied by Captain Furneaux aboard the *Adventure*. They circumnavigated the bottom of the globe, visiting and naming many Pacific islands, penetrating the Antarctic Circle for the first time ever, and ultimately discrediting the Terra Australis myth.

The ships were twice separated. Furneaux arrived back in England in July 1774 – after surviving a violent encounter with Māori in New Zealand – while Cook returned in July 1775, having re-entered the Antarctic Circle and gone further south than anyone else, before being repelled by ice. He later conceded: "I, who had ambition not only to go farther than anyone had been before, but as far as it was possible for man to go, was not sorry in meeting with this interruption..."



STAKING A CLAIM
In 1770, Cook lands at Botany Bay and declares Australia to be British

stop-off passed without bloodshed when Cook seemingly befriended the leader of the attack.

Next stop should have been the Society Islands, where Captain Furneaux had picked up Omai in 1773, but the elements intervened, pushing the ships further west. At the end of March, they became the first Europeans to sight, and land on, reef-ringed Mangaia, the most southerly of the super-scattered Pacific group of islands now collectively called the Cook Islands.

Following the winds west, the *Resolution* and *Discovery* made another pit stop in April at Tonga, known to Cook as the Friendly Isles after the hospitable reception he'd received there during his second voyage. Welcomed once again, the Captain dallied here for almost three months, before finally departing for Tahiti.

Omai finally arrived back home to the Society Islands on 12 August 1777, after a bewildering four years that must have seemed like an alien abduction. Knowing he'd missed his chance to thread the Bering Strait during the northern summer of that year, Cook was in no rush to leave. The party stayed in Tahiti for a further four months, before finally setting sail again on 7 December.

LAND AHOY

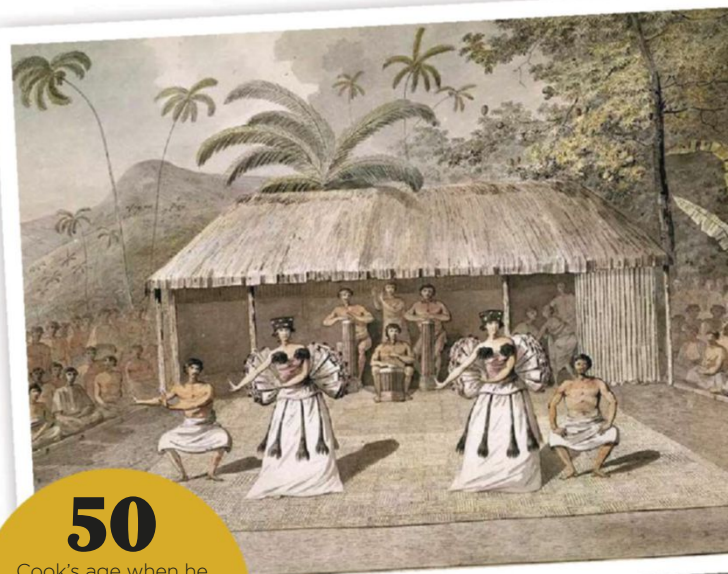
On 18 January 1778, uncharted land appeared out of the blue to the north. Guiding his ships into a bay that would eventually become Waimea Harbour, Cook christened the previously unknown archipelago the Sandwich Islands – in honour of John Montagu, fourth Earl of Sandwich, First Lord of the Admiralty and one of his patrons. These days we know them as Hawaii.

After a brief stop, the ships steered north east, across the immensity of the mid-Pacific, to meet the American mainland near modern-day Oregon. Cook hit the west coast in brutal conditions in early March and proceeded to plant a time bomb for the region's future tourism industry by bestowing the area with the name Cape Foulweather.

In bad visibility, Cook sailed straight past the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which leads to present-day Vancouver, and instead sought sanctuary in the protective embrace of Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island. They remained here for a month, in Resolution Cove, trading with the Nuu-chah-nulth people, who demanded metals from the Europeans, paying for tools and other trinkets with otter pelts.

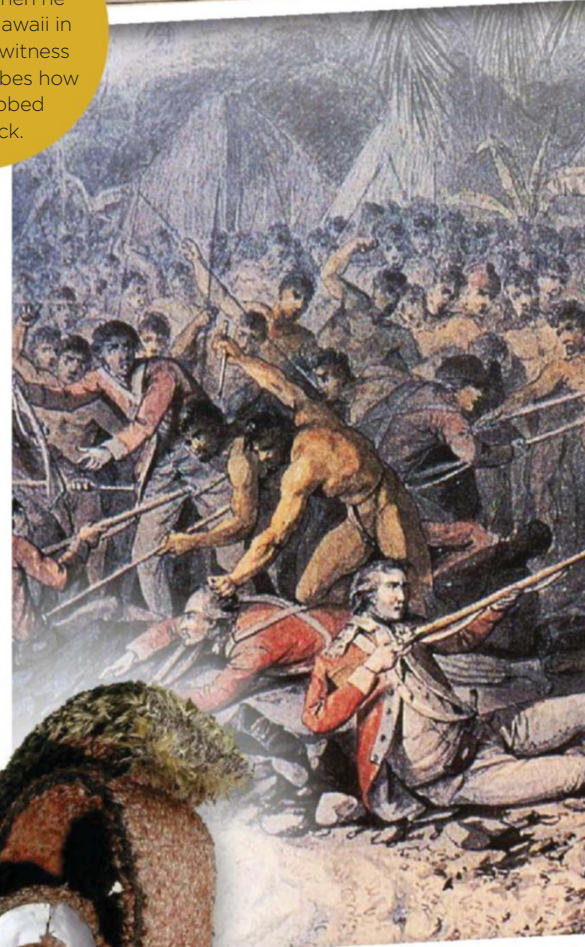
ALL OVER THE MAP

RIGHT: The crews go hunting on the Arctic leg of the third voyage BELOW: Holed up in Tahiti for four months, the attractions are obvious BELOW MIDDLE: While instructing his men to stop shooting, Cook is fatally stabbed in the back BOTTOM LEFT: A head of the war god Kukailimoku, collected by Cook BOTTOM RIGHT: The Captain Cook Monument at Kealakekua in Hawaii



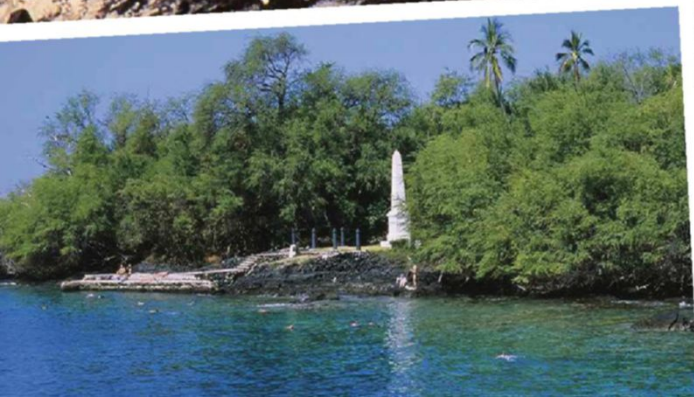
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Cook's age when he was killed in Hawaii in 1779. One eyewitness account describes how he was stabbed in the back.





They were welcomed
by a huge
flotilla of
canoes and
heralded
with great
fanfare



Cook proceeded to lead the expedition north, meticulously charting the coastline from Vancouver, right around the west coast of current-day Canada and Alaska, past what's now known as Cook Inlet, until he was forced to hook west and then south around the curve of the Aleutians. He eventually managed to turn north again, past the Chukchi Peninsula in Russia, to enter the Bering Sea.

On 11 August, the expedition crossed the Arctic Circle, reaching as far north as latitude 70° 41' North before being repelled by pack ice off Icy Cape. Cook was nothing if not tenacious, and he made multiple attempts to pick a path through the Bering Strait, but ice and violent seas made progress impossible. Continuing to feel around for a possible route, the Captain went west and worked his way down the Russian coast before sailing east again to Alaska's Norton Sound.

By this time, his crew were getting restless and Cook knew it was far too late in the year to find an ice-free route around the top of Russia. In October, the expedition put in at Unalaska in the Aleutians, where the ships were again re-caulked. He then ordered them to turn around and the expedition sailed back south, towards the Sun and the Sandwich Islands.

VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE

The island of Maui was spied on 26 November 1778, and the *Resolution* and *Discovery* spent all of December and the first two weeks of 1779 circumnavigating the big island of Hawaii, before finally anchoring in Kealahou Bay on 17 January. They were welcomed by a huge flotilla of canoes and heralded with great fanfare. By chance, the Europeans had gatecrashed a significant religious festival called Makahiki, dedicated to the god Lono. The situation could have gone either way, but fortunately the Hawaiians appeared to believe Cook was the personification of Lono.

The relationship between the Europeans and the islanders thus began on a positive note, and the crew made the most of their celebrity status by greedily tucking into everything the island had to offer. When one of the men died from a stroke, however, his untimely demise rather undermined their veneer of godly immortality, and the Hawaiians' suspicions were aroused. By the time

Cook ordered his ships to leave on 4 February 1779, strains had begun to show.

Unfortunately, after just a week at sea, the ships ran into fierce gales that snapped a mast on the *Resolution* and forced the captain to make a U-turn. The reception when they arrived back in Hawaii – looking more mortal and fallible than ever – was distinctly chilly and, in the following days, a group of locals stole the *Discovery's* cutter, a single-masted small boat.

On 14 February 1779, Cook went ashore with nine marines, intent on taking Kalani'opu'u, a powerful Hawaii island chief, captive until he could negotiate the return of the cutter. A violent melee erupted, and Cook, along with four of his marines and a number of locals were killed.

One eye-witness report credited to Lieutenant Molesworth Phillips, who suffered a spear wound in the conflict, talks about gunfire coming from English boats and describes how Cook was stabbed in the back when he faced the ships and requested they cease firing. Other accounts suggest the Europeans panicked and were fleeing to the sea when they were cut down.

In death, Cook was treated with great ceremony by the Hawaiians, who prepared his body as they would one of their highest chiefs – disembowelling the torso, preserving the hands in sea salt, roasting the remains in a pit and preserving the bones.

Parts of the Captain's corpse were recovered after a truce was called between the clashing cultures, and his devastated crew buried the remains of Britain's greatest explorer and surveyor at sea in Kealahou Bay. 📍

GET HOOKED

READ

Read all about his adventures in the Captain's own words in *The Journals*, published by Penguin Classics

VISIT

The Captain Cook Memorial Museum in Whitby, North Yorkshire, is located in the house in which Cook lodged while he received his seaman's training. www.cookmuseumwhitby.co.uk

LIFE ON BOARD AFTER COOK

When Cook was killed in the skirmish with Hawaiians on 14 February 1779, Captain Charles Clerke took overall command of the expedition. He led both ships back north and attempted to continue the mission to locate a navigable Northwest Passage, progressing as far as the Pacific coast of Siberia. Suffering terribly from tuberculosis, Clerke died on 22 August 1779 and was buried in the town of Petropavlovsk on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. Lieutenant John Gore took command of the voyage as captain of the *Resolution*, appointing Lieutenant James King as the *Discovery's* skipper. The expedition sailed home via China and Cape Town, docking back in Britain in October 1780.

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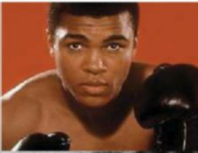
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MUHAMMAD ALI'S
GREATEST FIGHT



MUHAMMAD ALI'S GREATEST FIGHT

For all of Ali's classic bouts inside the ring, the champion's most iconic victory came outside of it, as **Jonny Wilkes** explains

ALAMY XI GETTY XI / HERE



MUHAMMAD ALI'S GREATEST FIGHT

Since the death of Muhammad Ali on 3 June 2016, at the age of 74, the outpouring of tributes and love has been both overwhelming and on a global scale. From sport stars to world leaders, everyone has expressed gratitude and respect for the prize-winning pugilist, poet and civil rights icon who transcended both the ring – where he danced on light feet but swung with heavy punches – and the very nature of celebrity. Here was a smooth-talking self-promoter so charismatic that he proclaimed himself “the Greatest” and no-one felt the need to disagree.

Understandably, many recent column inches have focused on his quick-witted trash talking (“I’m so mean, I make medicine sick!”), as well as his legendary fights. In a golden age of boxing, Ali towered over (sometimes literally, as they laid sprawled over the mat) some of the greatest names in the sport, such as Joe Frazier, George Foreman and Sonny Liston. While heavyweights lumbered

and relied on brute force, Ali skipped and dodged with lightning agility and hit back with a ferocity mixed with technical mastery. He earned and embodied his phrase: “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee”. And to say Ali could take a punch and shake it off is to understate the level of punishment he could absorb – his famous ‘rope-a-dope’ approach – only to lunge suddenly into attack once he sensed his opponent to be tiring.

Yet for the historic moments in the ring, Ali’s toughest, greatest fight took place out of his gloves and away from the ropes. By refusing to be drafted into the army to fight in Vietnam, Ali risked everything to stand toe-to-toe not against a boxing rival, but the US government, a hostile media and accusations against his beliefs. As Barack Obama noted in his heartfelt tribute, that fight would “cost him his title and

his public standing. It would earn him enemies on the left and the right, make him reviled and nearly send him to jail.” But Ali wouldn’t have been Ali if he couldn’t stand his ground in such a fight. In doing so, he became a figurehead of the civil rights movement, a symbol of counterculture and a beacon for peace.

WORTHY OF PRAISE

By 1966, with the United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War escalating, Ali held the heavyweight

championship, having shocked Sonny Liston in an against-the-odds victory two years earlier. The young, confident and talented black American had defended his title both in a rematch with Liston, knocking him down in less than two

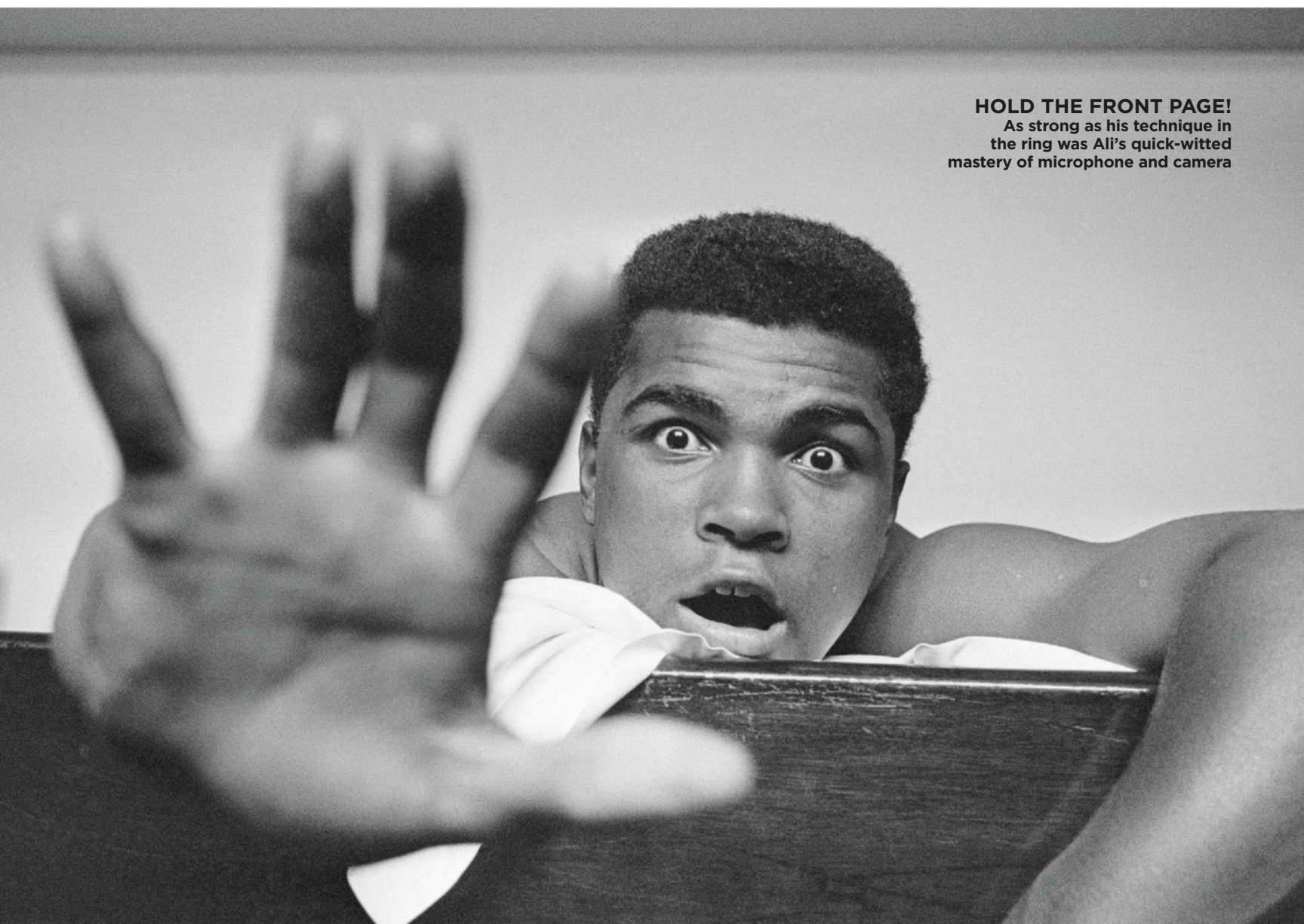
minutes, and against the former champ Floyd Patterson. These victories ensured he remained undefeated in professional

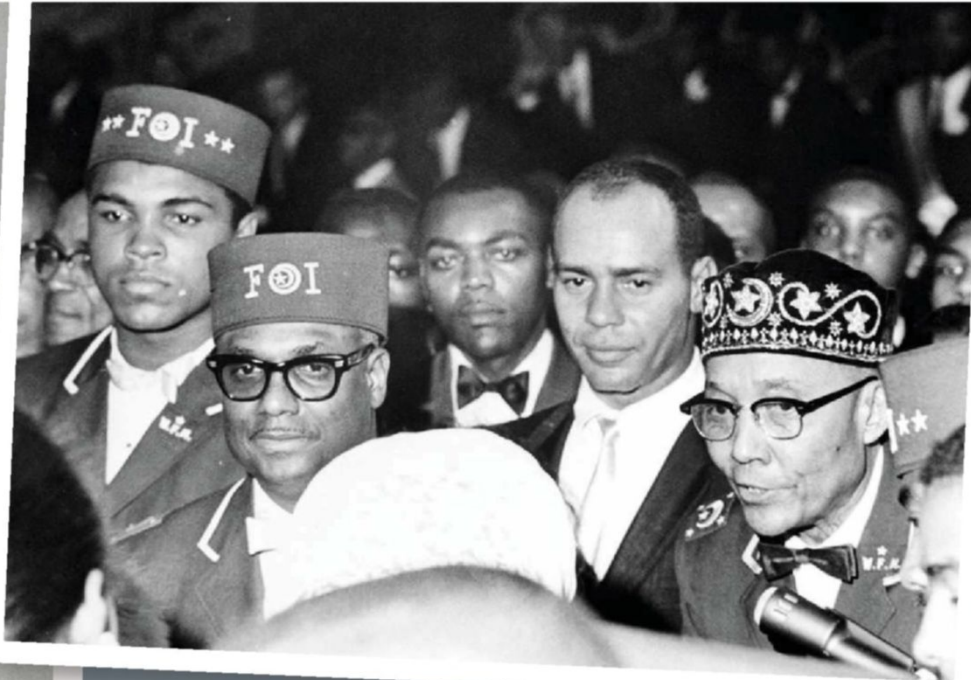
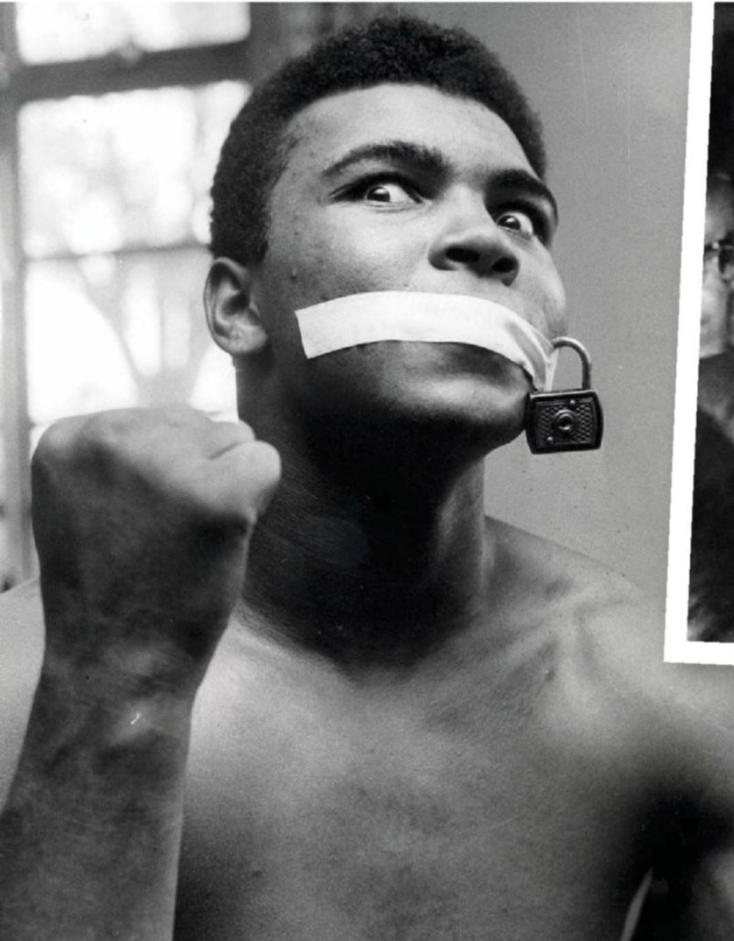
**“I DON’T HAVE TO
BE WHAT YOU
WANT ME TO BE.”**

MUHAMMAD ALI

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!

As strong as his technique in the ring was Ali’s quick-witted mastery of microphone and camera





ALI THE ACTIVIST

How the pugilist became a champion, both in and out of the ring

boxing. This career began in 1960 – when still called by his birth name, Cassius Marcellus Clay – in turn coming off the back of an impressive amateur run of 100 wins to five losses, and an Olympic gold medal. At just 24 years old, Ali looked set to dominate boxing – and he enjoyed the spotlight.

To the boxing world and press, he proved a divisive character. His unorthodox style upset aficionados, as it suited a smaller, lighter boxer rather than the heavyweights. What's more, whereas his rivals tended to let their managers or promoters do the talking, Ali took charge of the microphone himself, speaking with a hubris that left it impossible not to be drawn to him. Seconds after beating Liston in 1964, he rushed to the edge of the ring and yelled, "I am the greatest! I shook up the world! I'm the prettiest thing that ever lived!" While he won many over with his zingers and rhymes during the pre-bout hype, calls of arrogance were never too far away.

Not that he shied away from any controversy. Only days after claiming the world title, he confirmed rumours that he had converted and joined the Nation of Islam, a religious group calling for the extreme policy of black development separate from white society. Its members included the black rights minister Malcolm X. Not long afterwards, on the guidance of his mentor Elijah Muhammad, he changed from his "slave name" of Clay to Muhammad Ali, meaning 'one who is worthy of praise'. >

VOICE OF DISSENT

ABOVE LEFT: The 'Louisville Lip' couldn't be silenced
ABOVE RIGHT: Still Cassius Clay at this point, the boxer attends an event with Black Muslim leader Elijah Muhammad (far right), the man who will soon suggest Clay's change of name

From an early age, Cassius Clay (the future Muhammad Ali) faced the injustices felt by black Americans. Being born on 17 January 1942 in Louisville, Kentucky, meant living under segregation. Clay – a descendant of slaves and whose name came from an abolitionist in the Abraham Lincoln era – used separate public facilities to white people. His mother Odessa later recalled an incident, which badly affected her young son, when a local store refused to give him a glass of water.

It may have been a desire to fight injustice that attracted Clay to boxing in the first place. The 12-year-old Clay had his bike stolen when he bumped into police officer Joe Martin. An angry Clay vowed to "whup" the culprits, so Martin, who also ran boxing classes, suggested he take up the sport first to have a better chance of winning.

Clay's political awakening wouldn't occur until adulthood. After attending his first meeting of the Nation of Islam in 1961, he admitted to never feeling as spiritual before. "I dig them cats," he said of the group, who aimed to better the lives of black Americans. He met Malcolm X, a key figure in the movement and a mentor to him, before Malcolm split from the Nation of Islam and the pair fell out. The boxer later confessed this to be "one of

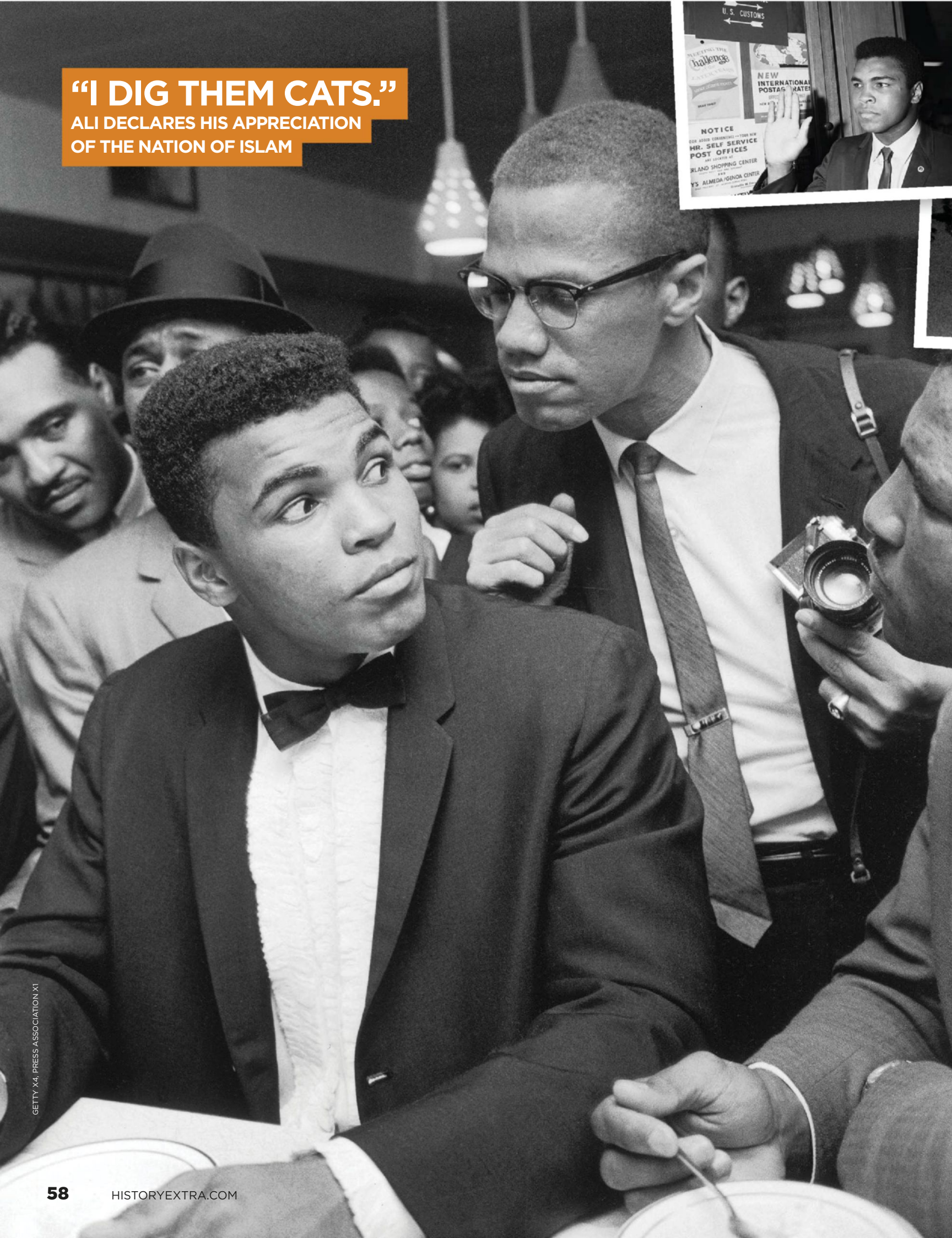
the mistakes that I regret most in my life". Clay also came under the guidance of the Nation of Islam founder, Elijah Muhammad, who chose Clay's new name, Muhammad Ali. The Nation of Islam held some extreme views, such as referring to the white man as the 'devil' and opposing integration, preferring for blacks and whites to live separately.

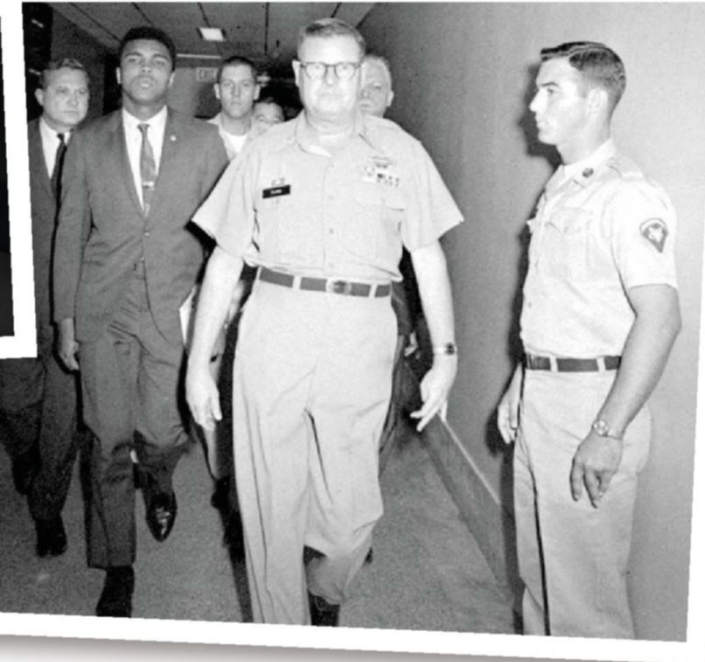
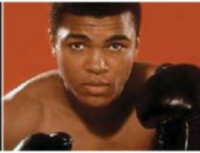
When, in 1966, the US Army drafted Ali to fight in Vietnam, he refused. "War is against the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. I'm not trying to dodge the draft," he said. "We are not supposed to take part in no wars unless declared by Allah ... We don't take part in Christian wars or wars of any unbelievers." It led to his exile from boxing, the stripping of his heavyweight title and years of animosity from Americans. When momentum shifted, people quickly praised his political stance, including Martin Luther King: "Here is a young man, who is willing to give up fame and fortune ... to do what his conscience tells him is right."

Even after Ali converted to Sunni Islam in 1975, he kept using his religion as a means of change in the world. He supported the Palestinian cause, travelled to Afghanistan as a peace messenger for the United Nations and negotiated the release of hostages in Iraq by meeting with Saddam Hussein.

"I DIG THEM CATS."

ALI DECLARES HIS APPRECIATION
OF THE NATION OF ISLAM





As the US increased the number of troops being sent to Vietnam, the army lowered its conscription standards so that more men would be deemed eligible for 1-A service. This included Ali, who had registered as a teenager but had been refused and classified 1-Y due to his IQ of 78 not reaching qualifying standards. "I said I was the greatest, not the smartest," he quipped when the embarrassing news broke.

PUGILIST TO PARIAH

By the time the army called him up on 9 March 1966, however, he had converted to Islam and so asked to be considered as a conscientious objector on religious grounds. When confronted by journalists, he retorted: "Man, I ain't got no quarrel with them Viet Cong."

He claimed the war as immoral, imperialist violence, which sent black men to fight for a country that denied their civil rights at home. "No, I am not going ten thousand miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over," he announced. "The real enemy of my

people is right here." His conviction ran deep. "I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. So I'll go to jail. We've been in jail for 400 years."

He appealed three times against the draft over the next year, only for each to be denied. So on 28 April 1967, a 25-year-old Ali stepped into the Military Entrance Processing Station in Houston, Texas, for his induction, although he never intended to go through with it. As he stood alongside 11 other men, officials called his name to step forward, to signify his compliance with the draft. Ali didn't budge. After being warned that he faced five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000, they called his name a second time and, again, he didn't move. The officials had no other choice but to arrest Ali and lead him away, taking with them his career and reputation.

Although Vietnam came to be resented and inspire huge anti-war movements, support for the war was at its peak in 1966. If being a black Muslim didn't turn white Americans on him, refusing to serve his country certainly did. On the same day as his aborted induction, the boxing authorities stripped him of the heavyweight title and suspended his

MATTER OF PRINCIPLE

FAR LEFT: For a short period, Ali knocked around with Malcolm X
ABOVE AND INSET: Ali's refusal to be inducted into the US Army leads to his arrest and prosecution

The media seemed reluctant to call him by his new Muslim name, choosing to refer to Ali as 'Champ' instead. Indeed, when Ernie Terrell, a challenger for the world crown, kept calling him Clay before a fight, Ali grew incensed. The 15-round destruction he rained down on Terrell – punctuated by screams of "What's my name?!" – drew comparisons to torture. Then, in March 1966, Ali gave another reason to put him on the front pages, as well as the back.

MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR!

It wasn't just Muhammad Ali protesting the war in Vietnam

When Ali made his stand against the draft in 1966, opposition to Vietnam already existed in the US, but wasn't particularly widespread. Many argued in favour of the war, referring to the 'domino theory': if Communist North Vietnam won, it would assist the cause of the Soviet Union.

But as involvement continued to escalate, amid stories of bombings of North Vietnam and the massacres of innocent civilians, more Americans questioned why the US remained in the region. The war cost billions of dollars a year, as well as the lives of thousands of American men, which looked only to get worse under the draft.

The natural birthplace for anti-war protests in the 1960s – a time of hippies, anti-establishment movements, sex, drugs and rock and roll – came to be the university campuses. From grassroots campaigns, such as the burnings of draft books, mass disenchantment took hold.

On 21 October 1967, some 100,000 protestors gathered in Washington DC at the Lincoln Memorial, before many marched to the Pentagon. This sparked a clampdown by police, leading to hundreds of arrests, but it brought anti-war sentiment to national attention.

North Vietnam's devastating Tet Offensive in early 1968 intensified the protests, with more artists joining the movement. Big names included beat poet Allen Ginsberg and musicians Joan Baez and Bob Dylan, whose songs came to define the time. Also among the ranks were wounded veterans – the images of these men in wheelchairs throwing away their medals resonated.

By this time, Ali had gone from traitor to a leading figure in both the anti-war and civil rights movements, which had increasingly joined forces. Martin Luther King, for example, publicly opposed the war, saying, "If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read 'Vietnam'."

PROTEST SONGS

TOP RIGHT: Folk singer Joan Baez leads the musical dissent

BOTTOM RIGHT: Anti-war protestors take to Washington's streets





MUHAMMAD ALI'S GREATEST FIGHT

licence, preventing Ali from boxing in the country – at his physical prime.

The great stand-up comedian George Carlin later put it best when he joked, “[Ali] thought it over and he said, ‘I’ll beat them up but I don’t want to kill them,’ and the government told him, ‘Well, if you won’t kill them, we won’t let you beat them up!’” At his trial in June, it took just 21 minutes for the jury to find Ali guilty, sentencing him to a five-year prison term and a hefty fine.

Ali may have remained free on bail, but he became a much-loathed pariah, pressurised to renege on his principles and sign up for the army. He made it clear this would never happen, and that he would be prepared to die for his beliefs and his “profession” as a Muslim minister. “My conscience won’t let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some hungry people in the mud for big powerful America. And shoot them for what? They never called me ‘nigger’, they never lynched me, they never put no dogs on me, they never robbed me of my nationality, they never raped and killed my mother and father ... How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail.”

Personal attacks against Ali intensified. Television host David Susskind had no

qualm whatsoever to say to Ali’s face: “I find nothing amusing or interesting or tolerable about this man. He’s a disgrace to his country, his race and what he laughingly describes as his profession.

He is a convicted felon in the United States...

he will inevitably go to prison, as well he should. He is a simplistic fool and a pawn.” Yet Ali endured much worse, including death threats. If anything, he faced greater dangers in the US than he ever would have in Vietnam – a celebrity of his status would never have been sent into frontline combat. Ali could have saved himself more than three years of turmoil if he gave in. Yet, much like his success in the boxing ring, he stood his ground, dodged punches and jabbed away at his opponents.

PEOPLE’S CHAMPION

Unable to box and waiting for his case to go to appeal, Ali made money giving speeches at university campuses, where wildly cheering supporters met his anti-war stance and increasingly vociferous calls for the rights of black Americans. Media-savvy and always

a skilled self-promoter, Ali held his own in numerous television interviews too, putting the quick wit that served him so well in the world of boxing to good use. “You my opposer when I want freedom,”

he once barked at a white journalist. “You my opposer when I want justice, you my opposer when I want equality. You won’t even stand up for me in America for my religious beliefs.”

It is interesting to note how the

consistency of Ali’s message could waver, and his abhorrence to violence may not have been as absolute as claimed. So while he declared in court that his refusal of the draft came from a commitment to peace, he is recorded elsewhere as saying, “If I thought going to war would bring freedom, justice and equality to 22 million American Negroes, they wouldn’t have to draft me. I’d join tomorrow.”

During this time, the civil rights and anti-Vietnam movements grew bolder. Support for the war eroded as more men came home in body bags, while progress for black Americans gathered apace. And Ali – who had a foot in each camp – found himself at the centre of

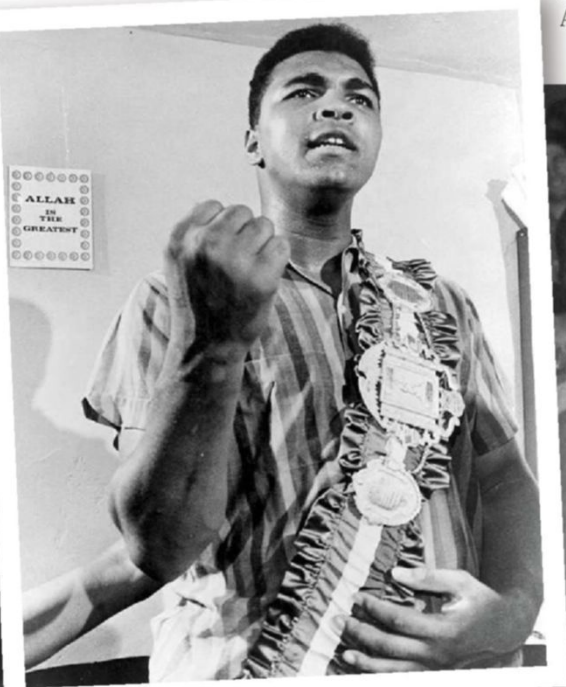
“HOW CAN I SHOOT THEM POOR PEOPLE?”

MUHAMMAD ALI

A MAN OF FAITH

LEFT: A freshly converted Ali reaffirms his belief in Islam

BELOW: In 1968, Ali’s supporters show their appreciation. It would be another two years before the boxing world reopened its doors to him



1960s counterculture making him an icon for the decade's dissatisfaction. "I am America," he boasted, "I am the part you won't recognise. But get used to me – black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own. Get used to me."

LICENCE TO THRILL

In 1970, the boxing world re-opened its arms to Ali, after three and a half years in exile, and reinstated his boxing licence. On his return to the ring in October, he defeated Jerry Quarry in three rounds. It took another year for his case – Clay vs United States – to succeed, having gone all the way to the Supreme Court. But, in June 1971, they overturned Ali's conviction by a unanimous decision.

Ali's time away from the ring had left its mark – it's no surprise as it robbed him of the "best years of his life", as his long-time trainer Angelo Dundee put it. The speed and shuffling feet that saw him evade punches in the early 1960s had gone, leaving Ali to move around the ring slowly and take a lot more hits. It didn't stop him being a champion boxer – he won the heavyweight title back in the bruising 'Rumble in the Jungle' against George Foreman in 1974 – and he brought a whole new generation of fans to the sport, who became aware of Ali through his political activism. Many of Ali's best-known fights came after his return from exile – but they came at a cost. The more severe beatings he endured contributed to the Parkinson's disease that affected the remainder of his life.

When Ali retired from boxing in 1981, he had 56 professional wins to his name, 37 by knockout, and only five losses. He may not have boxed during his prime years, but he still claimed a trio of heavyweight titles, the last coming in 1978 at the age of 36, making him the first boxer to have won the title on three separate occasions. Yet as impressive as his boxing records are (and there are few better) Ali is remembered as "the Greatest" for his actions away from the ring as well as in it.

Undoubtedly one of the most famous, and influential, people of the 20th century, he transcended the sport. There is no way he would have secured such a reputation – one that sent the world into mourning to the extent we have seen – were it not for his greatest fight. ☉



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Muhammad Ali's greatest victory either in the boxing ring or outside it?

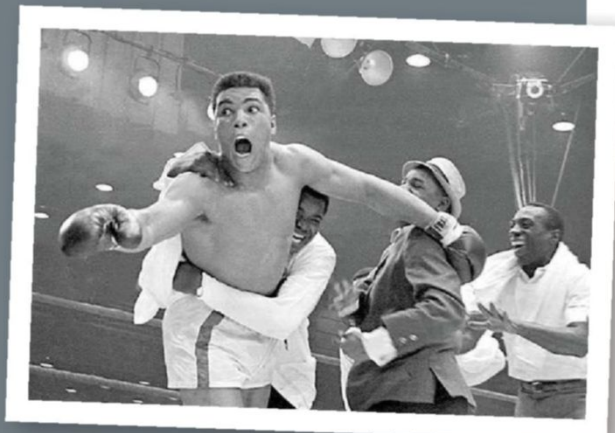
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THE GREATEST'S HITS

Knockouts, trash talking and going to hell...
The bouts that defined Muhammad Ali

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP, 1964

Coming into the title fight against Sonny Liston, Clay taunted the current heavyweight champ, calling him a "big ugly bear" who he would donate to the zoo. Everyone dismissed this as just trash talk, with Clay going into the bout at Miami Beach, Florida, as the definite underdog. Liston appeared rattled, though. After six rounds, he retired, handing Clay his first heavyweight title, at the age of 22.



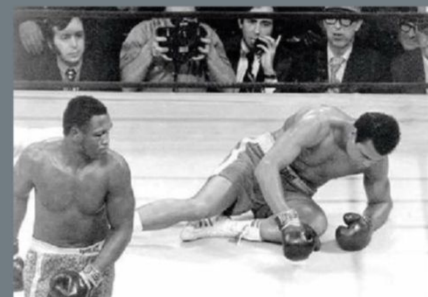
MASTER OF ARMS, 1966

In his first fight on home soil since his "I ain't got no quarrel with them Viet Cong" comment, Ali may have expected a hostile reception when he took on the big-hitting Cleveland Williams in November 1966. This might explain his laser focus that night. Although the fight only lasted three rounds before the referee called things to a halt, Ali landed seven times as many punches on Williams as he received, while knocking him down four times.



FIGHT OF THE CENTURY, 1971

With Ali back from exile, people billed his Madison Square Garden clash against Joe Frazier as a titanic battle between two undefeated champions – and it lived up to the hype and name. The fight lasted 15 rounds before Frazier knocked Ali to the mat with a brutal left hook. Despite Ali getting back up and seeing the round through, the decision went against him. He had suffered a loss for first time in his professional career – but would take revenge in a rematch in 1974.



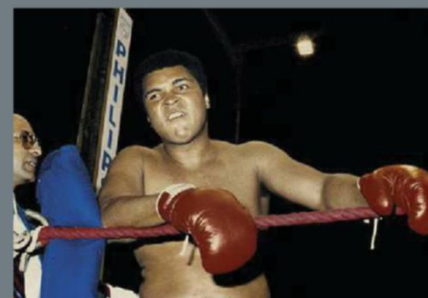
RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE, 1974

Ali looked to reclaim the heavyweight title from the unbeaten powerhouse George Foreman in a spectacle event taking place in Kinshasa, Zaire. Ali enjoyed a hero's welcome – people even chanted "Ali, boma ye!" (Ali, kill him!). In front of a crowd of 60,000, he knocked down Foreman in the eighth round, having worn him down with his secret weapon, the rope-a-dope strategy, which involved leaning on the ropes, letting his opponent tire before launching into attack.



THRILLA IN MANILA, 1975

After defeating Frazier in the sweltering heat of the Philippines, Ali admitted that this last of their three bouts ended up being the "closest thing to death". Indeed, when asked if he wanted to watch the footage, he replied, "Why would I want to go back and see Hell?" For 14 rounds, the two pummelled each other before Frazier's coach stopped the fight when his fighter's eyes had swollen shut.



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TRUE COLOURS
Alfred immortalised in a stained-glass window at Winchester Cathedral. Winchester was both the capital of Wessex and where Alfred died in 889

ALFRED THE GREAT

Largely remembered for his lapses in the kitchen, the Saxon king was actually the saviour of his people and should be saluted as such, says **Jem Roberts**



THE HISTORY MAKERS ALFRED THE GREAT

All heroic figures have to have nadirs to fight back from, adversity to overcome – and there's a reason that the Saxon King Alfred is the only English ruler ever to be popularly known as 'The Great'. The one thing that most people think of when his name is mentioned is the burning of the cake. True or not, it comes from Alfred's time of greatest struggle – as a battle-beaten guerilla hiding out in the marshlands of the Somerset Levels, with any hope of victory over the usurping Danes seemingly lost.

Overtaking this desperate state, and forging some kind of peace with the Danes, must surely be Alfred's greatest achievement. But there was one greater masterstroke in Alfred's reign, the main reason we still celebrate his successes over 1,100 years later. He was the first of our rulers to commission his own biography, written

during his lifetime by the Welsh bishop Asser. Understanding the value of good propaganda was just one of Alfred's many smart moves in his 28 tumultuous years as leader of Wessex.

THE WISE ELF

Long celebrated as a king who ruled more with his brain than by bloodlust, Alfred's very name means 'wise elf'. The importance of education, and things higher than victory in battle, was impressed on him at a very young age, when his father Æthelwulf went on pilgrimage to Rome in 853 and took his four-year-old youngest son with him. The example of the Roman church stayed with Alfred, who would fight for a more civilised form of government, firmly built on Christian piety, for the rest of his life. No chronicler, however, claims that Alfred was built for warfare, and his life was plagued by ailments now thought to stem from the excruciating bowel disorder, Chron's disease.

Æthelwulf had his work cut out on his return to Britain to avoid civil war when his elder son Æthelbald refused to give up his regency. But, ultimately, both father and son died within a couple of years, with Wessex passing to the next brother in line, Æthelbeht. Five years later, in 865, his death gave Alfred's closest brother Æthelred the crown and, in the same year the Vikings arrived, led by the terrifying Ivar the Boneless.

Over the next five years, the invading Danes bloodily took hold of northern kingdoms including Northumbria and East Anglia, and at the start of 871 – 'the year of nine battles' – Æthelred suffered a humiliating defeat against them at Reading. With the King ailing, and further attacks on Wessex expected, only four days later the Battle of Ashdown in Berkshire had to be led by the King's 22-year-old younger brother, Alfred.

Although never a warlord in the mould of his pagan adversaries, the cerebral prince was said to have ridden to a perforated sarsen stone (a large boulder, as used at Stonehenge), known as the 'Blowing Stone', and used it to summon the people from miles around to defend their lands



HAPPY COUPLE

ABOVE: King Alfred with his wife Ealhswith, with whom he had several children **LEFT:** The Great Heathen Army takes to the seas



TIMELINE

Born fourth in line to the throne, Alfred rose to earn the 'Great' addition to his name

853 ROMAN HOLIDAY

As little more than a toddler, the youngest son of King Aethelwulf experiences the opulence of the Roman Church, as it was in the late first millennium. He is inspired to live up to a Christian ideal for the rest of his life, fighting and even converting the Danish invaders.

868 TEENAGE MARRIAGE

The 19-year-old Alfred is married to Ealhswith, the daughter of Æthelred Mucil, an influential Mercian nobleman. They have several children together, despite the many disruptions of the coming years.

870 DANES ATTACK

The Viking invaders, who arrived in East Anglia five years previously, reach Wessex. Alfred and his brother King Æthelred fight many battles in the ensuing months, the last coinciding with the King's early death and Alfred taking the reins of this endangered Saxon society.

878 NO MR KIPLING

When his court is attacked, Alfred has to learn a new way of life as a guerrilla fighter in the Somerset marshes. This gives way to the tale of the burning of the cakes. A woman took him into her home and asked him to watch her baking, but the King was so fixated on battle plans, he ruined the supper.

878 EDINGTON

Alfred's long run of bad luck is turned around by a popular victory at Edington in Wiltshire, after which his nemesis Guthrum submits to Christian baptism.





EQUINE OF THE TIMES
 ABOVE: Wiltshire's White Horse is believed to commemorate Alfred's victory at Edington LEFT: The Blowing Stone, now a feature of an Oxfordshire garden

“He overthrew the Pagans with great slaughter, and smiting the fugitives, he pursued them as far as the fortress”

Alfred's biographer Asser

against the invaders. The success of the ensuing battle, however, was short lived, and further defeats followed before the month was over. By Easter, Æthelred was dead and Alfred had inherited the besieged Kingdom of Wessex.

TO PLAY THE KING

Even while Alfred was arranging his brother's funeral, the Danes continued to stage attacks on Wessex and, by May, he was forced to pay the Great Heathen Army to withdraw to Mercian London. Peace, however, was brief. The Danes, under their new leader Guthrum, were soon to be found pillaging Dorset, breaking an oath of peace made in the name of Thor, before withdrawing with their spoils to Exeter.

Despite being on their guard, however, the English forces had a surprise in store in January 878. Chippenham was a royal court, Alfred's home, and the pious King was celebrating Twelfth Night when Guthrum's forces attacked, laying waste to everyone they found, unprepared, with many forces away for

the yule period. Alfred had been married to a Mercian noblewoman, Ealhswith, ten years earlier, and already had at least two children including the four-year-old future King Edward the Elder. Thankfully they were spared the Danish butchery. Alfred, however, with what little retinue survived, had to escape and plan his revenge.

The year 878 is seen as the lowpoint of Saxon England, with the Danes now in charge of all kingdoms. Alfred created a fort on the central Somerset Isle of Athelney, 60 miles southwest of Chippenham, and plotted. His old strategy of buying off the Danes was no longer an option. Only all-out victory in battle would suffice.

In early May, Alfred rode to Egbert's Stone, and called a levy to bring together the remaining forces of Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire that were still loyal to him and create a force that could easily crush Guthrum's men in battle.

Accordingly, where the village of Edington in Wiltshire now stands, a bloody battle

commenced, as Asser later reported: “Fighting ferociously, forming a dense shield-wall against the whole army of the Pagans, and striving long and bravely... at last he gained the victory. He overthrew the Pagans with great slaughter, and smiting the fugitives, he pursued them as far as the fortress.” The White

BURNING THE CAKES THE ORIGINAL BAKE-OFF

While Alfred commissioned his own biography, all that hard work could easily be undone by one imaginative later writer hoping to add to the legend. Most people who hear the name of Alfred the Great will automatically leap to the story of him burning the cakes, and yet the tale was never recorded until the 12th century (along with another tale of the King stealing into the Danish camp disguised as a minstrel). Historians are often too quick, however, to discount later details as inventions, when a perfectly plausible event like this can tell us so much about kingship. It may have been a real event, which survived locally through storytelling.

The yarn remains that, after the Danish successes of 878, when Alfred was fighting for his survival guerilla-style in the marshes around Athelney in the central Somerset Levels, he was taken in by a charitable peasant woman and offered shelter on the understanding that, while she went out to search for wood, he was to keep an eye on the ‘cakes’ (actually some form of simple bread), which were baking by her fire.

He eagerly agreed, but when his hostess was gone, Alfred was so absorbed with ruminating on how to get back at the Vikings and restore his rule, that the cakes were burned by the time the old woman returned; she forced the King out into the cold with abuse for his foolishness. While this episode said a great deal about the fragility of royalty, the experience never harmed Alfred – his victory was imminent.



As Alfred considered his battle plans, the woman's cakes – or breads, as they actually were – went neglected

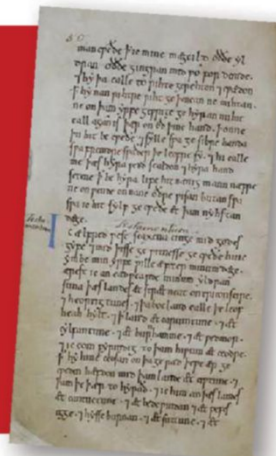
893 ASSER'S BIOGRAPHY

Perhaps the King's greatest masterstroke of all is commissioning his own biography, to be written by Bishop Asser, one of the most learned English scholars of the day. The eventual *The Life Of King Alfred* is an almost unique achievement in this time of rudimentary historical documentation.

899 ALFRED'S DEATH

On 26 October, the 50-year-old King Alfred dies, safe in the knowledge that he has given his life to the preservation of the Saxon way of life.

KING'S RANSOM
 Alfred's will, after his death in 899



ALFRED TODAY

HOW ONE KING'S LEGACY LIVES ON

▼ KING ALFRED'S TOWER

Like many counties, Somerset is littered with follies, but King Alfred's Tower, in Brewham in the south east of the county, is more than a typical rich man's whim. Built between 1769-72 to mark George III's coronation, the site was chosen by banker Henry Hoare II as the closest suitable site to Egbert's Stone, where Alfred was said to have rallied his force on the eve of the Battle of Edington in May 878.

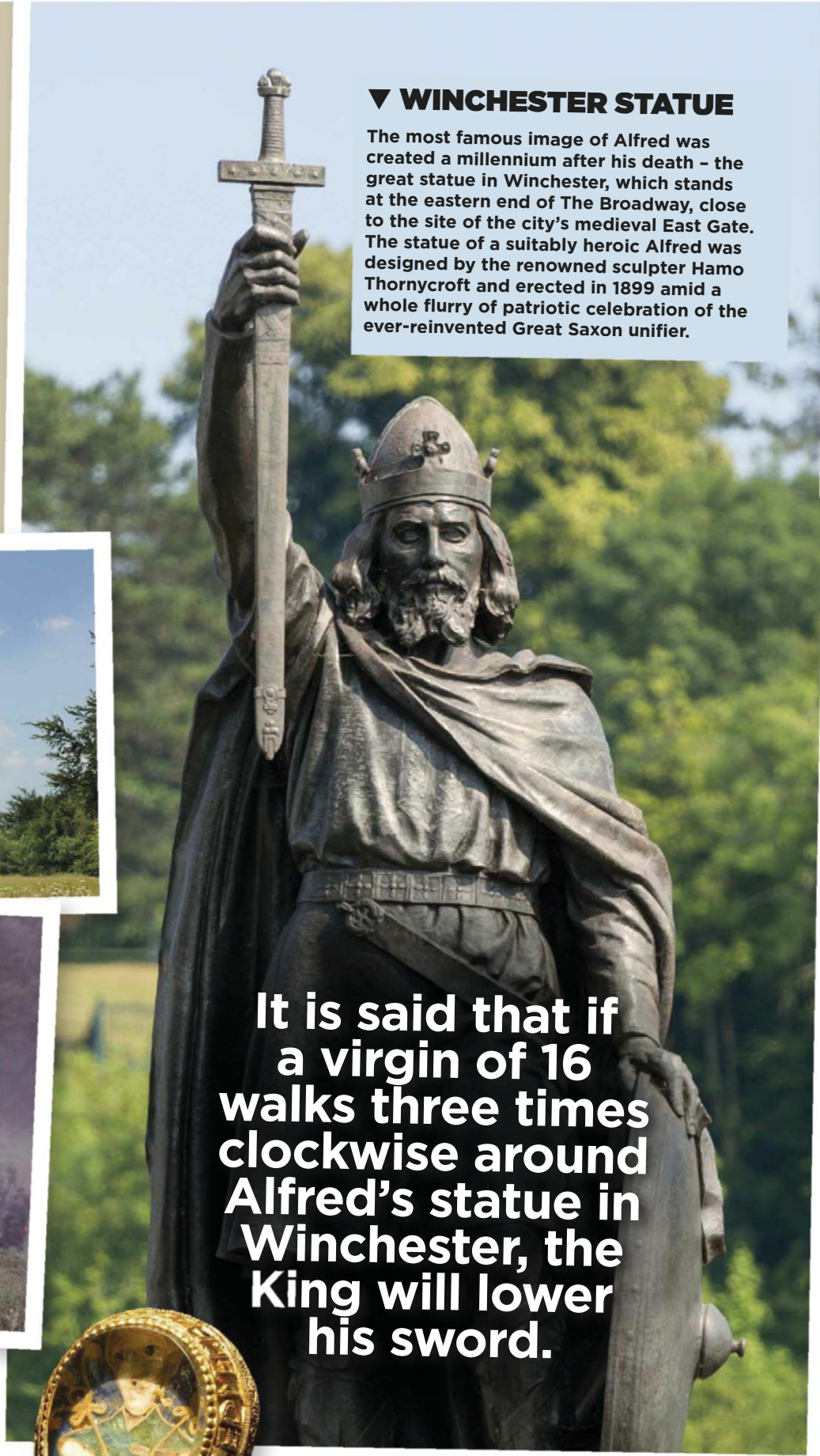


▲ ALFRED THE GREAT - THE 1969 FILM

Alfred was also the inspiration for a strangely under-sung film - certainly, given the richness of its cast and epic nature of the story. Clive Donner, director of *What's New Pussycat?* among others, brought together names like Ian McKellen, Michael York, Peter Vaughan and David Hemmings (in the title role) for a heavily romanticised version of Alfred's story. More recently, Alfred was played by David Dawson in the BBC series *The Last Kingdom*.

▼ WINCHESTER STATUE

The most famous image of Alfred was created a millennium after his death - the great statue in Winchester, which stands at the eastern end of The Broadway, close to the site of the city's medieval East Gate. The statue of a suitably heroic Alfred was designed by the renowned sculptor Hamo Thornycroft and erected in 1899 amid a whole flurry of patriotic celebration of the ever-reinvented Great Saxon unifier.

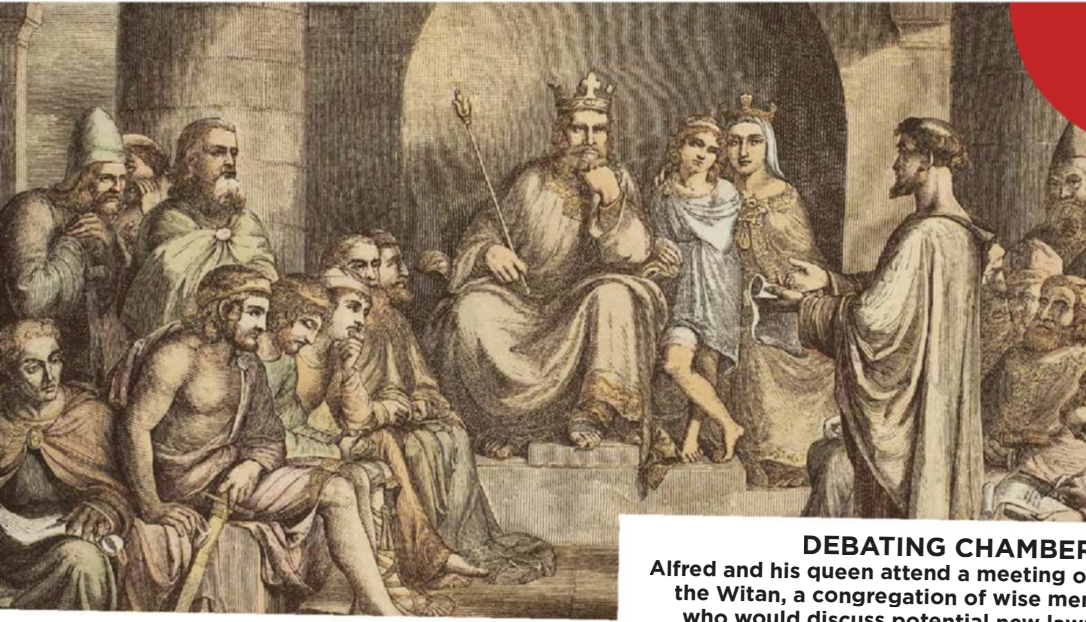


It is said that if a virgin of 16 walks three times clockwise around Alfred's statue in Winchester, the King will lower his sword.



◀ THE ALFRED JEWEL

One of the most haunting yet beautiful images left to us from Saxon England is the Alfred Jewel, an enamel, quartz and gold likeness minted during the King's lifetime and rediscovered in Somerset in 1693. Bearing the legend "Alfred ordered me made", the jewel shows a clean-faced monarch and is now believed to have been the handle to a pointer made for reading books.



DEBATING CHAMBER
Alfred and his queen attend a meeting of the Witan, a congregation of wise men who would discuss potential new laws

◀ Horse at Westbury is said to commemorate this, Alfred's greatest victory.

Guthrum had fled to his own stronghold, removing all food from them in a sortie. After holding out for two weeks, he submitted to Alfred and the Treaty of Wedmore was agreed. The key demand was that Guthrum be baptised into the Christian Church, taking the name Æthelstan and accepting Alfred as his adopted father. This also marked the establishment of the Danelaw, a formal division of England where the newly christened Æthelstan could happily withdraw, his conversion ensuring that his standing with the people he ruled over would be stronger than ever. He died in East Anglia after 12 years of relative peace.

A TIME TO REBUILD

Alfred was now finally free to rebuild the shattered Wessex cities and to try to forge the kind of kingdom he felt a Christian society demanded. London was carefully redesigned, with some street plans that still hold to this day. The King also issued his own 120-chapter law code, partially dictated by himself and partially based on previous Saxon legal edicts. Or, at least, as he admitted, "those that pleased me – and many of the ones that did not please me, I rejected with the advice of my councillors, and commanded them to be observed in a different way."

Alfred was said to always carry a notebook with him, jotting down prayers and observations that would become useful. The resultant legal document was largely Alfred's own meditation upon Christian law, with extended Biblical translations. Education was seen as central to Alfred's vision of a better England, with court schools established and the furtherance of teaching in the English language.

Meanwhile judges were required, for the first time, to be literate and learned before they were allowed in office – even if the fundamental law that underlined the entire disparate collection of rules was the old Saxon requirement, that loyalty to the Lord (Alfred, rather than Jesus) remained paramount.

It would be wrong to depict the late 9th century as a time of peace and rebuilding – and ironically, it was the death of his old enemy Guthrum that caused the trouble, creating a power vacuum that a whole host of Danes were itching to fill. The regular incursions from invaders required the English to develop their own weapons of war – including the design of a new fleet of boats twice the size of the Dane's, an early step towards the country's reputation for naval mastery. This increased force wasn't just for defence either, but for raids on the Danes to fill the royal coffers.

So close to the dawn of a new century and only just 50 years old, King Alfred died of unknown causes on 26 October 899, succeeded by his son Edward, who in turn ruled for 25 years without allowing Alfred's powerbase to fall back to its 878 nadir. Indeed, it would be his son, another Æthelstan, who first managed to reunite all the Saxon Kingdoms, and become truly the first King of England.

In a sign of English policy for centuries to come, very soon the English kings were invading Scotland, and making themselves overlords of the whole of Britain. As for Alfred himself, no more remains of him than of King Arthur – he was buried with fitting majesty in Winchester, before being moved to Hyde Abbey just outside the city in 1110. The graves of Alfred and his family managed to survive Henry VIII's Reformation, but were ultimately scattered in the building of a prison on the

THE GREAT DIVIDE

THE DANELAW

A hard-won peace was only found in Saxon England thanks to the agreement that gave rise to the Danelaw. This determined the portion of the country to be ruled over by the Viking invaders, in return for Alfred's Wessex being safe to the south (not just safe actually, but expanded, with extra lands in the south-east under Saxon rule).

Although never intended as the name of a geographical area, we now know this region to have stretched roughly from the north banks of the Thames up to the River Tees. The simplest way to envisage the region is to imagine a line drawn between London and Chester in the north-west – everything to the east of that line was under the Danelaw. Many areas within the Danelaw region remained largely Saxon, of course, but Viking settlement – and the differences in language, law and culture that came with it – was intensively centred on cities like York, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Lincoln. Danish roots remain strong in areas like Yorkshire, Newcastle and Essex to this day. For instance, DNA evidence shows that Derby residents still bear strong hereditary connections to Denmark.

site in the 1780s. Today, attempts are afoot to find some remnant of Alfred's body, Richard III-style, but hopes are low of any meaningful identification being made.

But unlike so many of his contemporaries and indeed descendants, Alfred has little need for DNA analysis to be celebrated – as the English nation grew in strength and international power, the Saxon hero grew in reputation, earning the 'Great' soubriquet by the 16th century. Although his story is stirring, it could have been as murky a history as any first millennium ruler, had he not kept his firm faith in the power of the written word, and the English language.

Bishop Asser was the person who gave Alfred true immortality and who allowed his words to stay with us, 1,117 years after his death: "I desired to live worthily as long as I lived, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works." ◉

GK CHESTERTON on Alfred
"More mighty in defeat was he, than all men else in victory, and behind, his men came murderously..."



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does Alfred the Great get his due level of acclaim?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



IN PICTURES
MARGARET
BOURKE-WHITE

LIFE THROUGH A LENS

Relive the globetrotting adventures of Margaret Bourke-White, photojournalist extraordinaire...

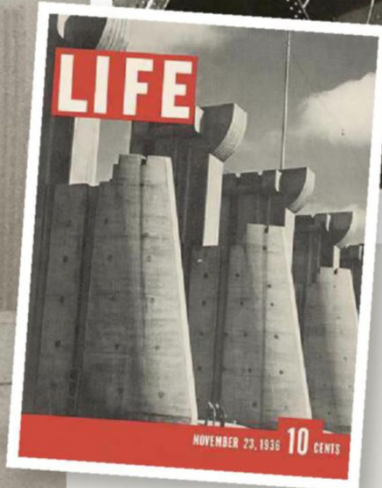
AT A GLANCE

Margaret Bourke-White was one of the greatest photographers of the last 100 years. From presidents to prisoners of war, no-one was too important, or unimportant, for her camera lens. As a staff photographer for both *Life* and *Fortune* magazines, she was despatched across the globe to report on some of the 20th century's most seismic events. And she did so with passion in her blood and fire in her bones. As one of her editors observed, "Maggie won't take no for an answer".

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE / THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION / GETTY X6

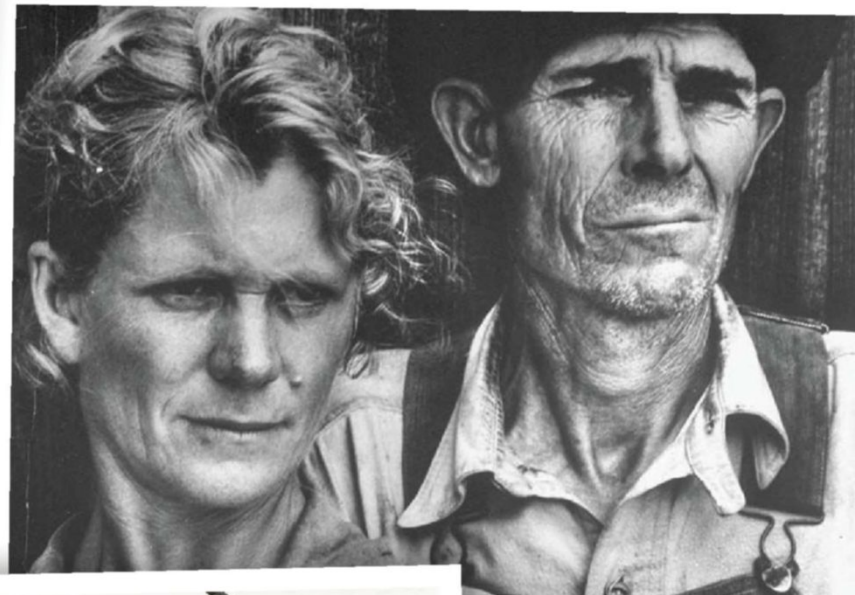
DON'T LOOK DOWN

Having extensively photographed the construction of New York's Chrysler Building, particularly during the bitter winter of 1929-30, Bourke-White then chose to base her studio in the finished tower. She would regularly venture out onto one of its protruding gargoyles in order "to take pictures of the changing moods of the city".



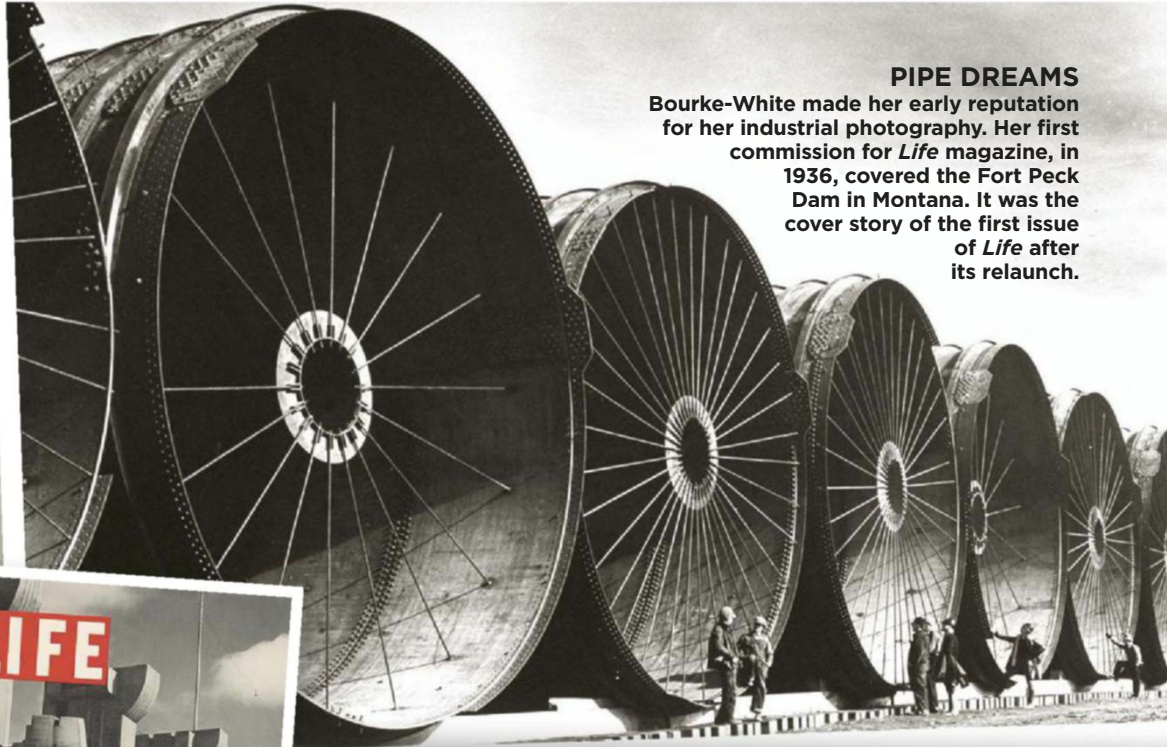
HARD TIMES

The early years of Bourke-White's career, in the 1920s and '30s, were a tumultuous time for US society. Here, she turns her lens away from industrial photography, with this dignified portrait of sharecroppers during the Great Depression.



PIPE DREAMS

Bourke-White made her early reputation for her industrial photography. Her first commission for *Life* magazine, in 1936, covered the Fort Peck Dam in Montana. It was the cover story of the first issue of *Life* after its relaunch.



WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING

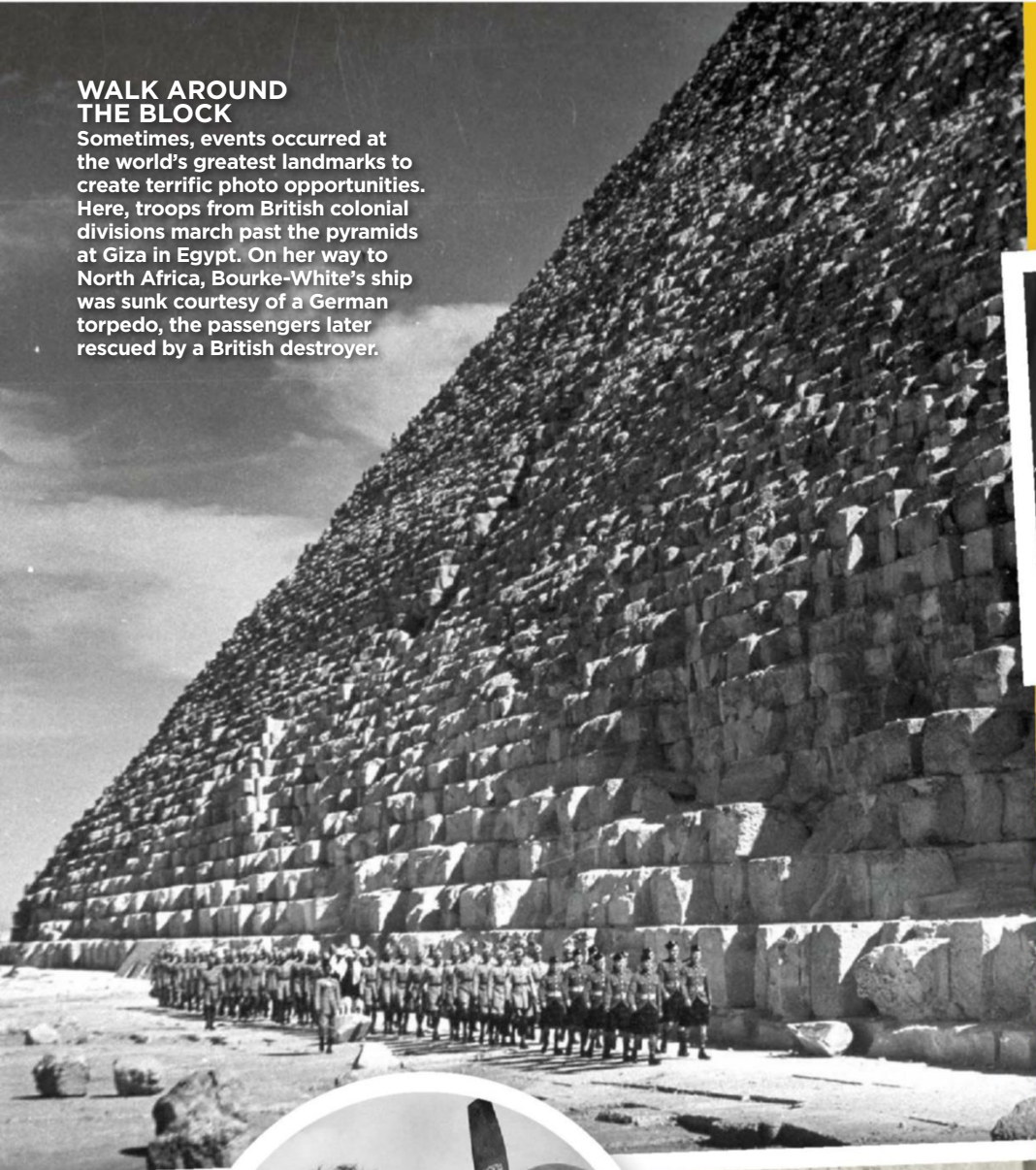


HELL AND HIGH WATER

When the Ohio River flooded Louisville, Kentucky, in 1937, Bourke-White made her way to the beleaguered city, hitch-hiking and riding on rafts to get there. A queue of flood victims lining up next to a poster proclaiming American wealth and opportunity was an open goal to a photojournalist.

WALK AROUND THE BLOCK

Sometimes, events occurred at the world's greatest landmarks to create terrific photo opportunities. Here, troops from British colonial divisions march past the pyramids at Giza in Egypt. On her way to North Africa, Bourke-White's ship was sunk courtesy of a German torpedo, the passengers later rescued by a British destroyer.



SAFE HAVEN

Sheltering in an Italian monastery, US soldiers shave using their helmets as washbasins, much to the amusement of the local priest and his donkey. **INSET:** Bourke-White was the first female war correspondent – always looking for action, always armed with her camera.



BATTLE STATIONS

When the world took up arms in 1939, Margaret Bourke-White reinvented herself – as a war photographer



UNDER ATTACK

The spires of central Moscow are illuminated by the flares of the German Luftwaffe. Bourke-White was the only foreign photographer in the Soviet capital during the raids, turning her hotel room into a makeshift film-processing lab.



LIFE'S A DITCH

In Italy in 1944, Bourke-White accompanied mine detector-wielding US Army Engineers as they rebuilt bridges demolished by the retreating Germans. She thrived in the conditions of World War II. "I learned to appreciate a nice deep muddy ditch which I could roll into during a shelling ... I learned to sleep almost anywhere."



EXIT STRATEGY

Along with documenting the horrors of war came the opportunity to capture moments of relief and elation. At World War II's end, these German refugees use whatever means necessary to make their passage out of Berlin.



**"I HAVE TO WORK
WITH A VEIL
OVER MY MIND."**

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE



SWEET RELEASE

Prisoners from a subcamp of Buchenwald concentration camp hug each other after their liberation by Allied troops in 1945. Not all Bourke-White's photographs in the camps struck such a positive note, though. "People often ask me how it is possible to photograph such atrocities. I have to work with a veil over my mind. In photographing the murder camps, the protective veil was so tightly drawn that I hardly knew what I had taken until I saw prints of my own photographs. It was as though as I was seeing these horrors for the first time."

THE GREAT DIVIDE

Bourke-White's camera went into action when the Partition of India was enacted in August 1947, creating the separate states of India and Pakistan. This boy, photographed two months later, was just one of several million refugees displaced by a programme that split a nation along religious lines.



GOING UNDERGROUND

In 1950, *Life* sent Bourke-White to South Africa, where a system of apartheid had just been initiated. Here she photographed black miners extracting gold deep underground. On asking her subjects' names, she was told that "black miners aren't known by their names; a miner is a 'unit', with his number tattooed on his forearm".

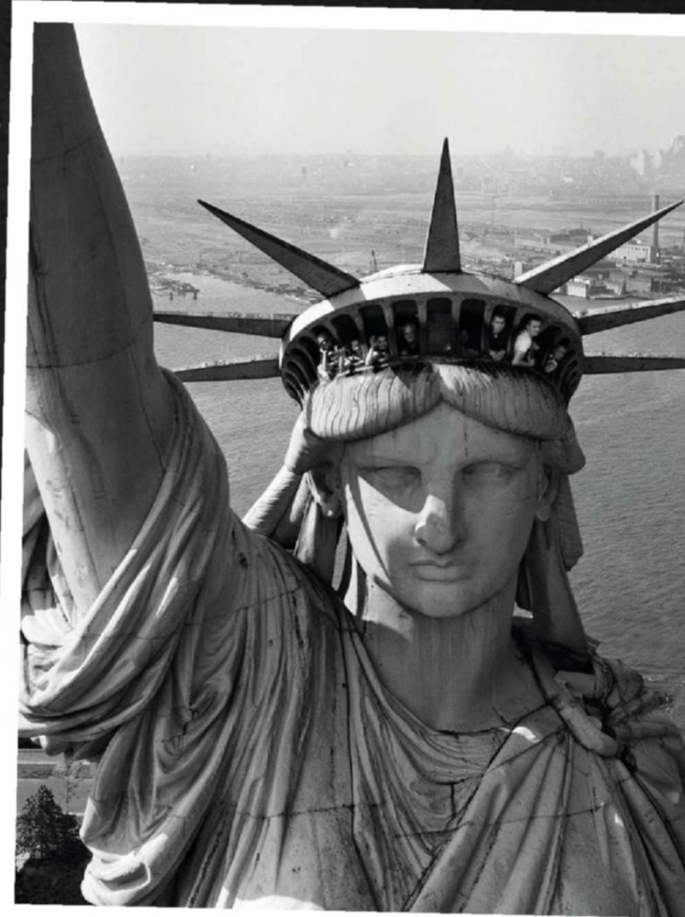
MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE/THE LIFE PICTURE COLLECTION/GETTY X5



**SHE NEVER TOOK THE
SHORTEST ROUTE.
SHE NEVER LOOKED
FOR COMFORT.**

MAN OF PEACE

Bourke-White photographed Mahatma Gandhi several times and was almost certainly the last person to interview him, just a few hours before his death at the hands of a pistol-wielding assassin. He had told the photographer: "I can no longer live in darkness and madness. I cannot continue."



LADY LIBERTY

No matter where her extensive travels took her, Margaret Bourke-White retained an over-arching fascination for her homeland, and her home city especially. It was her photographs – of landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty – that helped make New York City such an iconic place, *the* pivotal location of the 20th century.

LEFT: The astonishing adventures of this incredible woman redefined the word 'intrepid'. She travelled to the ends of the Earth to document the joy and, more often, the despair of human existence. It wasn't happenstance or good fortune that put Bourke-White in the white heat of some of the last century's most resonant episodes. She went looking for them, never taking the short route, never looking for comfort. Being dropped into the jungle by helicopter and disappearing for weeks on end, for instance, was all in the line of duty.



BATTLEFIELD IMPHAL AND KOHIMA, 1944

BATTLES IN BURMA

MAIN: British and Gurkha troops move along the road between Imphal and Kohima, where two fierce, attritional battles rage

RIGHT: Civilians in Burma (Myanmar)

look on as Japanese forces pass by
FAR RIGHT: Japan hoped to sweep its soldiers through Burma and into India, but their advance came to a halt at Imphal and Kohima

TANKED UP

The rough terrain made tanks difficult to deploy, but when they were used they could be decisive.

NO SURRENDER

The Japanese military code scorned surrender and often led its soldiers to fight to the death, even when all was lost.

Victory snatched from defeat

When the stubborn Indian and British defence of Imphal and Kohima in 1944 halted the Japanese advance, it changed the course of one of World War II's most gruelling campaigns. **Julian Humphrys** investigates

Playing tennis on the court outside of his bungalow in the small Indian hilltop town of Kohima, Deputy Commissioner Charles Pawsey couldn't have imagined that a few years later, this idyllic spot would see some of the bitterest fighting of World War II.

The twin attritional battles of Imphal and Kohima in 1944 reduced his bungalow to rubble, turned the hills into a nightmare landscape of blood-soaked mud, shattered trees and blackened corpses, and was so intense that



TRAVELLING LIGHT

Without lots of supplies and equipment to slow them down, the Japanese often surprised the British by the speed with which they marched through the jungle.



BATTLE BRIEFING

Who

British and British Indians under the command of Lieutenant-General William Slim

Japanese and troops of the Indian National Army, led by Lieutenant-General Renya Mutaguchi

When

March to July 1944

Where

North-east India

Why

Japanese launch surprise attack on key supply bases

Result

Decisive British and British Indian victory



SUPER SLIM

William Slim, commander of the 'Forgotten' Army

it would become known as 'the Stalingrad of the East'.

On 7 December 1941, Japan had launched a shock attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, before declaring war on the United States and Britain. Aiming to create a fortified perimeter around a self-sufficient homeland, the Japanese, who already occupied large chunks of China, seized key Pacific islands and invaded European colonies throughout East Asia. During the first year, Britain suffered defeat after defeat. That Christmas saw the surrender of Hong Kong, quickly followed by the loss of Malaya and

the fall of Singapore – an event described by Winston Churchill as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history".

In March 1942, the Japanese captured Rangoon, forcing the British into a desperate 1,000 mile fighting retreat through Burma (today called Myanmar) back to the Indian border.

MOMENTUM SHIFT

Yet, on several theatres of battle, the Japanese momentum began to shift. After the capture of the Philippines in May, their losses, including four aircraft carriers, at the Battle of Midway

BRITAIN'S FINEST GENERAL?

Down-to-earth, approachable but utterly determined, William Slim is regarded as one of Britain's finest-ever generals. The son of a Bristol hardware merchant, he joined the army at the start of World War I, where he fought in France, at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia, was twice severely wounded, and won the Military Cross.

In World War II, Slim served in Africa and the Middle East, before being given his command in Burma.

His first task was to lead his troops in a retreat to India. In the autumn of 1943, as commander of the British 14th Army, he reorganised and retrained his troops into a force that could, and did, defeat the hitherto unbeatable Japanese.

Slim followed Imphal and Kohima by masterminding the re-conquest of Burma. In 1948, he was appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff (the professional head of the Army) and retired in 1952.



BATTLEFIELD IMPHAL AND KOHIMA, 1944

in June effectively destroyed their naval strength. Meanwhile, large numbers of Japanese troops had been tied up in mainland China, attempting to put down Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalist forces.

Yet in Burma, the advance rolled on, with things continuing to go badly for the British. Their push into the Arakan coastal region at the end of 1942 was crushed. With British morale at an all-time low, the Allied High Command for Southeast Asia went through an overhaul in May 1943, under the charismatic leadership of Admiral Louis Mountbatten. General William Slim became commander of the ground forces, and he set to work restoring morale and emphasising the need for thorough jungle training.

There was to be a new way of waging war. Previously, British troops fell back in the face of Japanese force, but now they were told to sit tight, form a defensive line and fight, relying on supplies from the air. The Japanese soon put that new policy to the test.

WAR OF ATTRITION

In March 1944, the Japanese launched Operation U-Go, an advance against India's north-east frontier. Their initial target was the British base at Imphal, which housed a huge supply dump and linked to the main railhead at Dimapur, 130 miles to the north by a road that passed through the town of Kohima.

Japanese commander Lieutenant-General Renya Mutaguchi believed the capture of these places would not only enable him to control supply routes, but give him a base for a march into India. Although Slim suspected an imminent attack, the speed of the Japanese took him by surprise. His plan had always been to pull back his troops to defensive positions around Imphal, so they could fight as near as possible to supplies. Having to act with little warning though, he nearly left it too late and his troops had a tricky job fighting their way back. Mutaguchi achieved this surprise by ordering his men to travel light, but this meant they had to quickly capture Imphal before they ran out of food.

Japanese forces cut the Imphal-Dimapur road on 29 March, and both Imphal and Kohima had been surrounded by 5 April. Colonel Hugh Richards, commander at Kohima, hurriedly cobbled together a scratch force from 4th Battalion, the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, the Assam Regiment and some soldiers from 161st Indian Brigade, but this only amounted to about 1,500 men. The Japanese had ten times that number.

The next fortnight witnessed some of the bitterest close-quarter fighting of the entire war. The Japanese launched attack after attack, gradually forcing the outnumbered British and Indian troops back from a succession of hills and strong points into a tight defensive perimeter centred on Garrison Hill.

Driven by a military code that scorned retreat and despised surrender, Japanese troops fought with an almost suicidal bravery, causing them to be shot down in their droves. The battle degenerated into a merciless war of attrition. One British commander would later admit, "We thought of them as vermin to be exterminated... our backs were to the wall and we were going to sell our lives as expensively as we could."

RELIEF FORCE

As the Japanese tended to wait for darkness before launching assaults, the British and Indian defenders spent their days repairing defences, cleaning weapons, and snatching brief moments of sleep. With nowhere to take them, casualties had to be laid in open trenches, where they could fall victim (for a second time) to mortar bombs. In some places, the two sides occupied positions just metres apart. The tennis court in front of Pawsey's bungalow became a no-man's land with the British dug in behind one baseline, exchanging grenades with an enemy dug in behind the other.

Mutaguchi hadn't bargained for the Allies' ability to bring up reinforcements. When he learned of the attack on Kohima, Mountbatten immediately sent the 2nd Division by road and

BURMA CAMPAIGN

Some of the most severe fighting of World War II took place on the borders of Burma



INDIAN SOLDIERS ON BOTH SIDES

The British Army forces included both British and Indian personnel, as well as divisions of African troops. Each Indian Army Brigade usually had one Indian, one British and one Gurkha battalion. Some Indians, however, fought against the British in the Indian National Army (INA). Some had been prisoners of war and so signed up to escape the conditions in Japanese camps, while others believed the Japanese to have the best chance to rid them of British rule. One INA Division took part in the Battle of Imphal, where it suffered heavy losses, primarily through disease and starvation.



Indian and Gurkha soldiers inspect equipment abandoned by the Japanese at Scraggy Hill

NIGHTMARE TERRAIN

The heavy fighting reduced the trees around Kohima to blackened, leafless stumps.

SUPPLY DUMP

The Japanese underestimated Slim and Mountbatten's ability to keep their troops resupplied.

CALL OF DUTY

Units of Gurkhas also fought for Britain during the campaign. Coming from Nepal, they were particularly well-suited to fighting in mountainous terrain.

“With nowhere to take them, casualties were laid in open trenches”

WEAPONRY

The close-quarter fighting at Kohima and Imphal called for a variety of weapons...

MILLS 36 GRENADE

With a grooved casing to make them easier to grip, such grenades became a common sight at Imphal and Kohima, where fighting could be at close quarters. It originally had a seven-second fuse, which had to be lowered to four when it was realised this gave an enemy time to pick it up and throw it back.



BREN GUN

The Bren light machine gun takes its name by combining Brno in Czechoslovakia, where it was designed, and Enfield, its place of manufacture. Its rapid rate of fire – 500 rounds per minute – meant it could empty a magazine in a matter of seconds, resulting in soldiers using the Bren in short bursts. Normally each British infantry section of eight to ten men had one. Two men acted as its crew while the remaining rifleman carried ammunition. The Bren proved itself as a vital part of the British and Indian arsenal in combatting the massed Japanese charges at Imphal and Kohima.



MORTAR

Used by both sides at the Battles of Imphal and Kohima, the mortar was highly effective against enemy soldiers hiding behind obstacles or sheltering in trenches. They could also be used to fire smoke bombs, which came in handy to mask the movement of troops.



BATTLEFIELD IMPHAL AND KOHIMA, 1944



GAME, SET AND MATCH
Deputy Commissioner Charles Pawsey's tennis court became a fierce and bloody battlefield

◀ rail to Dimapur to join a relief force, which battled south and broke through the Japanese road block at Zubza on 14 April. They reached Kohima four days later – just in time, as Richards's defensive perimeter had been reduced to an area less than 350 metres square.

The fighting went on, despite it becoming clear that the attack on Kohima had failed. Mutaguchi refused to allow his troops, who were literally starving, to retreat. As they dug in, with no signs of surrendering, the British and Indian troops had to clear every foxhole, every bunker and every trench down to the last man. Pawsey's tennis court and bungalow were the final positions to be captured. After failed attempts to outflank or storm these positions, the British finally managed to get a tank up the hill to the tennis court where it destroyed the Japanese trenches

and bunkers on 13 May. Exhausted and starving, the Japanese finally, but still reluctantly, began to pull back. With the Battle of Kohima over, the British pushed southward and, on 22 June, linked up with the forces at Imphal.

SUPPLY AND DEFEND

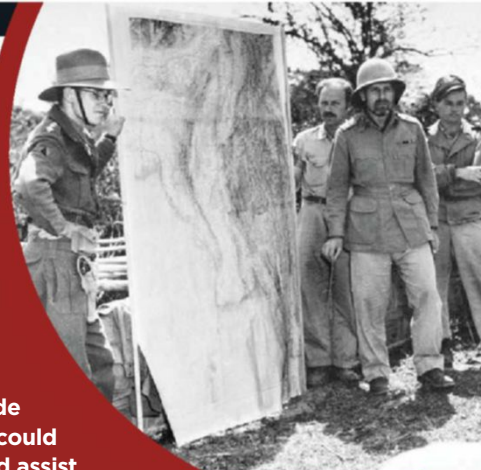
Imphal had been under siege since 5 April. Slim later recalled that, "The fighting all around its circumference was continuous, fierce and often confused, as each side manoeuvred to outwit and kill. There was always a Japanese thrust somewhere that had to be met and destroyed." A key factor in the defence of Imphal was Mountbatten's and Slim's ability to keep men reinforced and supplied. During the battle, the RAF evacuated 13,000 casualties and flew in nearly 19,000 tons of supplies, a million gallons of petrol, 1,200 bags of mail and over 12,000 men. An entire

12,000

The number of Japanese mules and pack horses that died during the battles

THE CHINDITS

A British India special forces unit, the Chindits took their name from the mythical beast that sits at the entrance of Burmese pagodas. They took part in two operations in Burma in 1943 and 1944, mounted by British General Orde Wingate, who believed troops could operate behind enemy lines and assist regular forces by cutting enemy communications. Results were modest and a third of the brigade became casualties, but news of the first operation, between February and April 1943, raised British morale at a time of defeat. A second, much larger operation launched at the same time as the Battles of Imphal and Kohima, Chindits helped the Chinese capture the town of Moguang while others cut an important railway line. However, losses through disease were crippling and Wingate himself died in an air crash.



General Orde Wingate, in the pith helmet, commander of the Chindits

"The fighting was so intense that Kohima became known as the 'Stalingrad of the East'"

division was airlifted and deployed in just two days.

There were moments of crisis, notably when a Japanese infantry battalion seized the Nungshigum Ridge, overlooking the airstrip at Imphal. A threat to the entire position, the 5th Indian Division launched a major counter-attack on 13 April, supported by air strikes, artillery and tanks from the 3rd Carabiniers. Believing the terrain to be unsuitable for tanks,

the Japanese had brought few anti-tank weapons so were driven from the ridge with heavy losses.

It was clear by May that Japan's plan had failed. Imphal wasn't going to fall and the Japanese would capture no supplies, but, somehow, Mutaguchi remained blind to the inevitable. It wasn't until 3 July that he permitted his soldiers to retreat. By then, many had been reduced to eating grass. The Japanese fell back to the Chindwin, leaving behind all their artillery and many soldiers too sick or badly wounded to walk. The British suffered some 16,500 casualties in four months of fighting. The Japanese 15th Army, originally 85,000-strong, had lost some 53,000 men. ☉

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

With Japan on the run, the British surged...

The Japanese army suffered one of its greatest defeats at Imphal-Kohima, which led to Lieutenant-General Mutaguchi being relieved of command, recalled to Tokyo and forced into retirement. The British now went on the attack. Fighting through the monsoon and supplied by air, the 14th Army crossed the River

Chindwin. In March 1945, they captured Mandalay in a fierce battle and pushed on towards Rangoon, abandoned by the Japanese. The strategic position was recaptured by a combined air and seaborne attack in early May.

In 2013, the joint battles of Imphal and Kohima were voted



In losing Mandalay to the British Army, the Japanese forces in Burma were all but destroyed

as 'Britain's Greatest Battle' in a poll by the National Army Museum, ahead of D-Day.

GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

IN A NUTSHELL p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p86 • **WHAT IS IT?** p87

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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WHY DID ELVIS WEAR JUMP SUITS?

During his stint in the army between 1958 and 1960, Elvis Presley became a devotee of martial arts and especially karate. Those famous stage kicks came from a genuine black-belt. Trouble was, his shirt kept coming untucked. Worse, with stadium lighting in its infancy, people in the cheap seats were having trouble seeing the King in his trademark black. Oh, and he was convinced he had a 'long neck', which he always tried to hide.

In the late 1960s, Elvis charged costume designer Bill Belew to create something that would accommodate his act, his fans at the back and that imaginary ugly neck. Made from wool gabardine (no lycra in those days), at first the mainly-white jumpsuits were relatively plain, with a high collar (inspired by outfits worn by Napoleon), slim waist and stiff bell-bottoms to give them shape from a distance when he kicked.

As Presley's girth billowed, Belew added sequins and capes to distract the eye from the King's midriff. Fans know them by name - the 'Aloha', 'Peacock', 'Tiger', 'American Eagle' and scores of others. They cost a fortune back in the day and have kept their value. In 2014, Sotheby's sold the sweat-stained Peacock for \$245,000, even though it had a broken zip... SL

JEWELS IN THE CROWN

The King's signature style was a sequin-spattered onesie



GETTY


DID YOU KNOW?

WRESTLE YOU FOR IT
In 1520, Henry VIII challenged Francis I of France to a wrestling match at the diplomatic meeting known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Francis won.

1

The total number of original teeth remaining in George Washington's mouth when he became the first American president. He wore painful dentures for most of his life.

WHO WAS THE LAST MONARCH TO FIGHT IN BATTLE?

 The last British monarch to lead was King George II. He defeated a French force at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, during the War of the Austrian Succession. Outside of Britain, King Michael I of Romania led a successful coup to oust the pro-Nazi Prime Minister in 1944, but he fired no shots. In which case, perhaps our best answer is King Albert I of Belgium who commanded his troops against the Germans at the Battle of Yser in 1914. **GJ**



IN THE TRENCHES
King Albert I of Belgium, digging in with his troops, made the front page on 13 December 1914

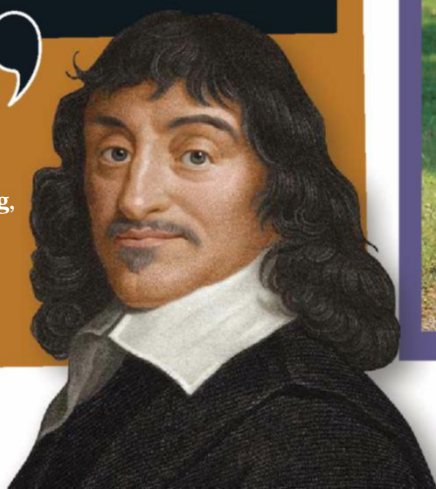
DID YOU KNOW?

FIRST PAST THE POST
In 1877, the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race officially ended in a dead heat. Controversy over the result meant that – for the first time in a boat race – finishing posts were erected for the 1878 race.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE A GOOD MIND; THE MAIN THING IS TO USE IT WELL

RENÉ DESCARTES


This quote is from the same chap who spouted “I think, therefore I am” and is essentially saying, if you've got good brains, don't waste them. Descartes, a 17th century French philosopher, mathematician and physicist has been dubbed ‘The Father of Modern Philosophy’. Respect.



GENUINE CONTENDER


Could the Norse assemblies of Iceland be the longest-running parliament in the world?

Where was the first parliament?

 A parliament, from the French verb parler (to talk), can be defined as a body of representatives who assemble in order to discuss state legislature. Most ancient kingdoms possessed some form of advisory council, but the existence of an assembly of citizens, deliberating matters of state without recourse to a ‘divinely-appointed’ monarch, was rare.

The assemblies established in Athens and republican Rome claimed to represent the will of the people – but were made up of a small, wealthy and exclusively male minority. Who actually lays claim to the title of ‘earliest, still-functioning parliament’ is hotly debated. The contenders are the Norse assemblies of Iceland (the Althing), the Isle of Man (the Tynwald) and Sweden (the Jamtamot) – all three allege they were established in the 10th century AD, which would make them the longest-running parliamentary institutions in the world. **MR**

WHERE DOES THE WORD ‘HONEYMOON’ COME FROM?

 The tradition of couples taking a holiday immediately after marriage most likely stems from the ‘bridal tours’ popular amongst the upper classes, combined with the rise of popular travel and tourism in the 1800s. The word itself, however, existed much earlier. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, its origin was most likely a charming (if bleak) allusion to love, which ‘waned steadily as the moon does’. One of the earliest recorded uses, dating to a book of 1552, reveals that the word was thought to originate with ‘the vulgar people’ and that it was ‘applied to such as be new married (which) loveth each other at the beginning exceedingly.’ **EB**



IN A NUTSHELL

CHINA'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

When millions of people were murdered or tortured in the name of 'true' ideology...

What was the Cultural Revolution?

China's Cultural Revolution took place between 1966-68 (with some dating its end to as late as 1976). Its aim was to purge the country of its traditional ideas, culture, customs and habits – known as the Four Olds – and capitalist traits, instead preserving China's 'true' communist ideology.

Why did it begin and who was behind it?

The movement was launched by Mao Zedong, co-founder of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and founder, in 1949, of the People's Republic of China. Mao's power had reduced significantly following the failure of his 'Great Leap Forward', a campaign introduced in 1958 to develop Chinese agriculture and industry through mass mobilisation of its population. The result had been a huge decline in agricultural output and the deaths of millions through famine. Many historians believe that Mao, who resigned as Chairman of the People's Republic of China in 1959, launched the Cultural Revolution as a way of re-imposing his authority and eliminating liberal rivals. Other

key figures included Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, military leader Lin Biao and Zhou Enlai, premier and foreign minister, and a leading figure in the CCP.

Who was affected?

Mao believed that, during his period of absence from power, moderates in the CCP had relaxed many of its former policies. As a result, a new, privileged class of engineers, scientists and intellectuals, encouraged by Mao's rival Chairman Liu Shao-chi, had emerged. These men and women, Mao believed, had acquired too much power, and were trying to restore capitalism to China.

Mao urged that these so-called revisionists be removed, exhorting a million people gathered in Tiananmen Square in August 1966 to 'bombard the headquarters' and rid China of the Four Olds, using violence if necessary. Between August and November that year, eight mass rallies were held, attended by more than 12 million people. China's leadership was 'purged' of those deemed to be

contravening Mao's vision for the country, and the revolution began to gain momentum across China.

Who were the Red Guards?

Keen to rid China of its old ways, groups of militant students formed paramilitary units known as the Red Guards. Armed with copies of the 'Little Red Book' of quotations by Mao, and sporting red arm bands, these students abandoned their 'elitist' formal education and instead roamed the country, ransacking and destroying historical and religious sites. Temples, shrines, museums and works of art and literature were desecrated, while streets were issued with new revolutionary names, and littered with pictures and sayings of Mao.

Thousands of teachers, officials and others thought to have capitalist leanings were tortured, publicly humiliated and even

murdered – in August and September 1966, more than 1,700 people were said to have been murdered in Shanghai alone.

Hundreds of others committed suicide.


One former Red Guard described seeing

"rows of teachers... with black ink poured over their heads and faces... hanging from their necks were pails filled with rocks... beatings and torture followed... eating nightsoil and insects, being subjected to electric shocks and forced to kneel in broken glass."

How and when did it end?

By September 1967, Red Guard activities had spiralled out of control and many Chinese cities were on the brink of anarchy. The country's economy was suffering, schools and colleges were closed, agricultural output had fallen dramatically and much of the country's cultural heritage had been destroyed. Finally, in September 1967, with Red Guard factions now turning on each other, Mao ordered the People's Liberation Army to intervene: thousands of counter-revolutionaries were executed and students were ordered back to school. In July 1968, Mao officially dismissed the Red Guard movement, while Zhou Enlai, originally a supporter of the Revolution, urged a return to normality.

What was the impact on China?

Around 1.5 million people were killed and millions more were imprisoned, tortured or humiliated at the hands of the Red Guards. Education stalled and a generation of Chinese individuals found themselves inadequately educated, while the country's economy faltered badly. Many Chinese lost faith in their government completely. 



EYES DOWN
Chinese children holding Mao's 'Little Red Book', circa 1968



RED OR DEAD?

ABOVE: Mao Zedong and Lin Biao, Tiananmen Square, 1966.
LEFT: Chinese Red Guards were former students who ransacked the country.



HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

THE BUDDHIST STUPA

Indonesia's ancient temple is a cosmic journey in stone...



Burial mounds containing relics date back to Neolithic times. They were also common during the lifetime of the Buddha and he instructed his disciples to erect them at crossroads to commemorate great sages and heroes. After the Buddha's death, a monument (known as a stupa) was to be raised in his honour. The legend says that eight of the mightiest princes fought for his ashes and bones. These relics were distributed to eight different kingdoms, and stupas were erected over them. Most well-known is the Borobudur Temple Compounds on the isle of Java.

BOROBUDUR TEMPLE COMPOUNDS

Borobudur was built in the 8th and 9th centuries. It was used as a Buddhist temple until sometime between the 10th and 15th centuries, when it was abandoned. Hidden for hundreds of years under layers of volcanic ash and jungle growth, it was rediscovered in the 19th century and restored in the 20th. A stupa is intended to portray the path to enlightenment. Pilgrims begin at the base, follow a path around – purifying negative karma as they go – and then ascend through three levels symbolic of Buddhist cosmology: Kamadhatu (the world of desire), Rupadhatu (the world of forms) and Arupadhatu (the world of formlessness) to the central stupa and Nirvana.

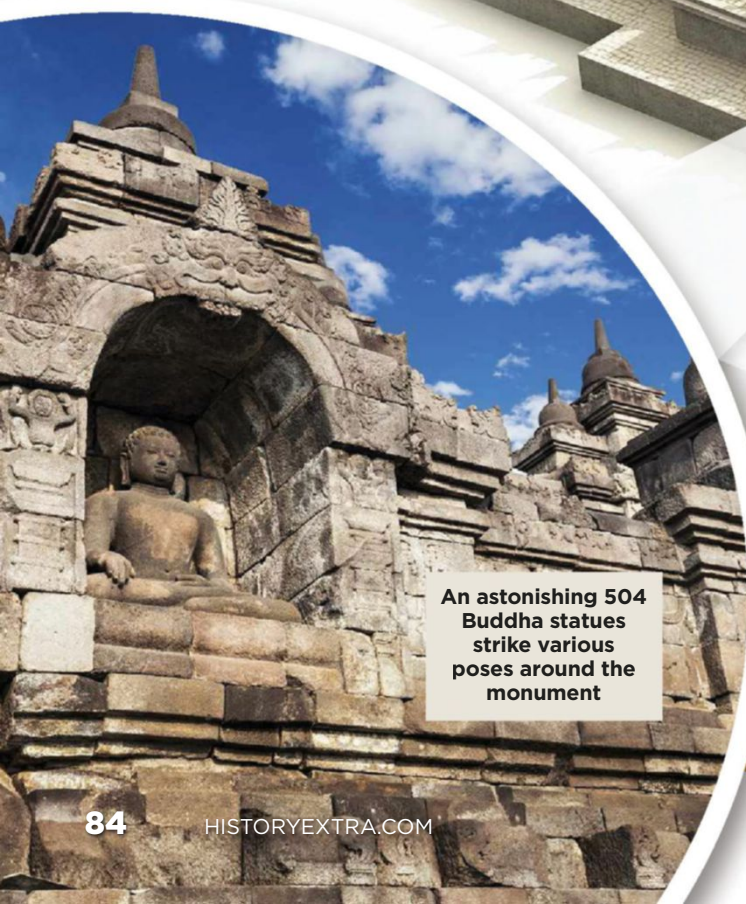
ILLUSTRATION: SOL 90 IMAGES, GETTY X4

THIS IS BIG

Acknowledged by UNESCO as the largest Buddhist monument in the world, it is now the island's biggest tourist attraction and a World Heritage Site.

COSMIC NUMBERS

A survey conducted in 1977 revealed frequent findings of a ratio of 4:6:9 around the monument, which archeologists conjecture have astronomical and cosmological significance.



An astonishing 504 Buddha statues strike various poses around the monument

STACKED

Borobudur was built on a hill and has a pyramidal structure with nine platforms: the lower six are square and the three above are circular.

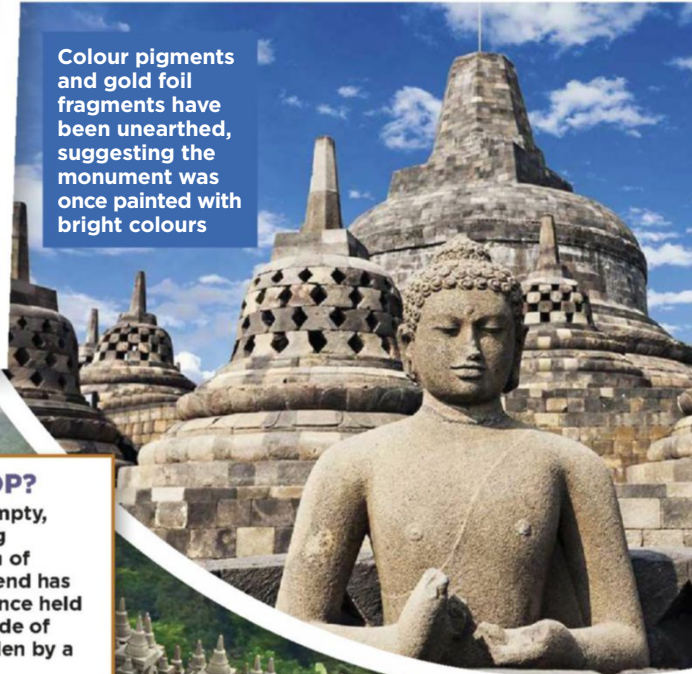
HILL OF DREAMS

This illustration shows the location of the temple in relation to the hill where it was built.





Colour pigments and gold foil fragments have been unearthed, suggesting the monument was once painted with bright colours



WHAT'S UP TOP?

The main stupa is empty, perhaps symbolising complete perfection of enlightenment. Legend has it, however, that it once held a Buddha statue made of gold, which was stolen by a Dutch explorer.

IF WALLS COULD TALK

The lower structure, discovered during excavations in 1885, may have a retaining function to avoid the collapse of the whole temple. It has 160 reliefs that depict scenes derived from Buddhist text.

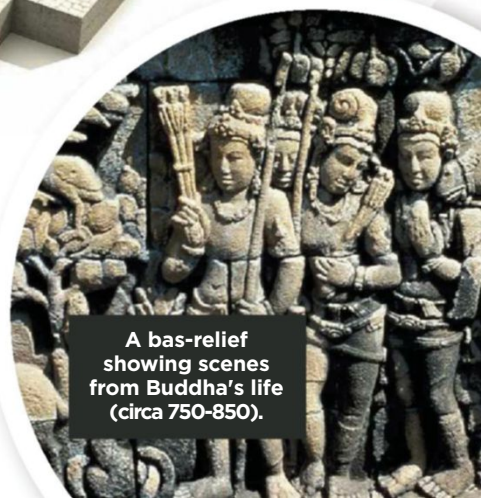
MIND OVER MATTER

Approximately 55,000 cubic metres of andesite stone was taken from neighbouring quarries, cut to size, transported to the site and laid without mortar. Knobs, indentations and dovetails were used to form joints and elaborate reliefs were created in situ after the building had been completed.

STORIES IN STONE

Bas-reliefs are one of the most distinctive elements in Borobudur. There are a total of 2,760 on the facades and other parts of the temple.

A bas-relief showing scenes from Buddha's life (circa 750-850).



WHY DO WE SAY...

WHEN IN ROME...

🎯 The full phrase is: "When in Rome, do as the Roman's do" and its origins are attributed to a 4th century bishop – St Ambrose of Milan. He was advising St Augustine on how to avoid unnecessary conflict by respecting the beliefs and practices of local cultures, stating: "When I am at Rome, I fast on a Saturday; when I am at Milan, I do not. Follow the custom of the church where you are." Its less noble usage today is more about going with the flow: "If everyone else is having a beer, I might as well too."

WHAT WAS A DRAGOON?

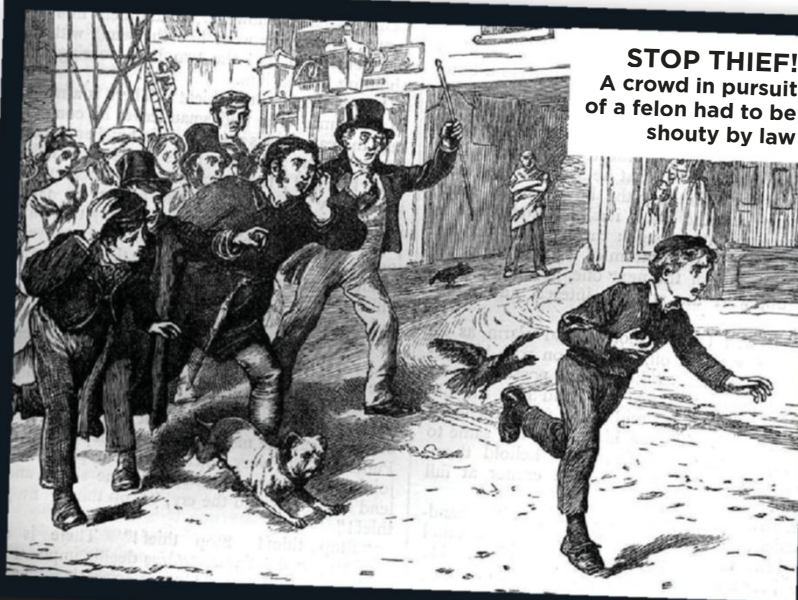
🎯 In the 17th century, army commanders decided it would be useful to have some soldiers who could ride around and then dismount to shoot. The muskets of the time were too long to be carried on horseback, so these new soldiers were equipped with shorter firearms known as 'dragons'. The soldiers carrying them became known as dragons in France and dragoons in England. Eventually, these mounted infantrymen developed into cavalry proper – with light dragoons specialising in scouting and skirmishing and heavy dragoons used for massed cavalry charges. Louis XIV of France tried to intimidate Protestant families into re-converting to Catholicism by billeting ill-disciplined dragoons on them. This practice has given rise to the expression 'to dragoon someone into doing something'. JH

ON A MISSION
A dragoon strongly suggests a Huguenot converts to Catholicism



350

The number of contestants in the world's first beauty contest, Concours de Beauté held in Spa, Belgium, September 1888.



WHAT EXACTLY WAS HUE AND CRY?

🎯 The 1285 Statute of Winchester declared that if anyone, whether a constable or a private citizen, witnessed a crime, they must make 'hue and cry', summoning all able bodied men to chase after the alleged felon until they were caught and delivered to the sheriff. If the suspect was caught with stolen goods on them, they would be convicted on the spot. Under an Elizabethan amendment, if hue and cry was not made, the whole community could be held responsible for the crime and be liable for compensation. SL

Did women fight in the English Civil War?

🎯 King Charles I certainly thought so for, in 1643, he issued a proclamation forbidding women from dressing as men in order to fight. A small number of women do seem to have taken part in combat – one famous example was Jane Ingleby of Ripley Castle, who reputedly charged with the King's cavalry at Marston Moor – while many travelled with the armies as camp followers.

Some aristocratic women took command at home while their husbands were away. Lady Brilliana Harley defended Brampton Bryan in Herefordshire against the Royalists, while Lady Mary Banks famously held Corfe Castle for the King during two sieges. When the Roundheads tried to climb the walls, she, her daughters and her female servants helped drive them off

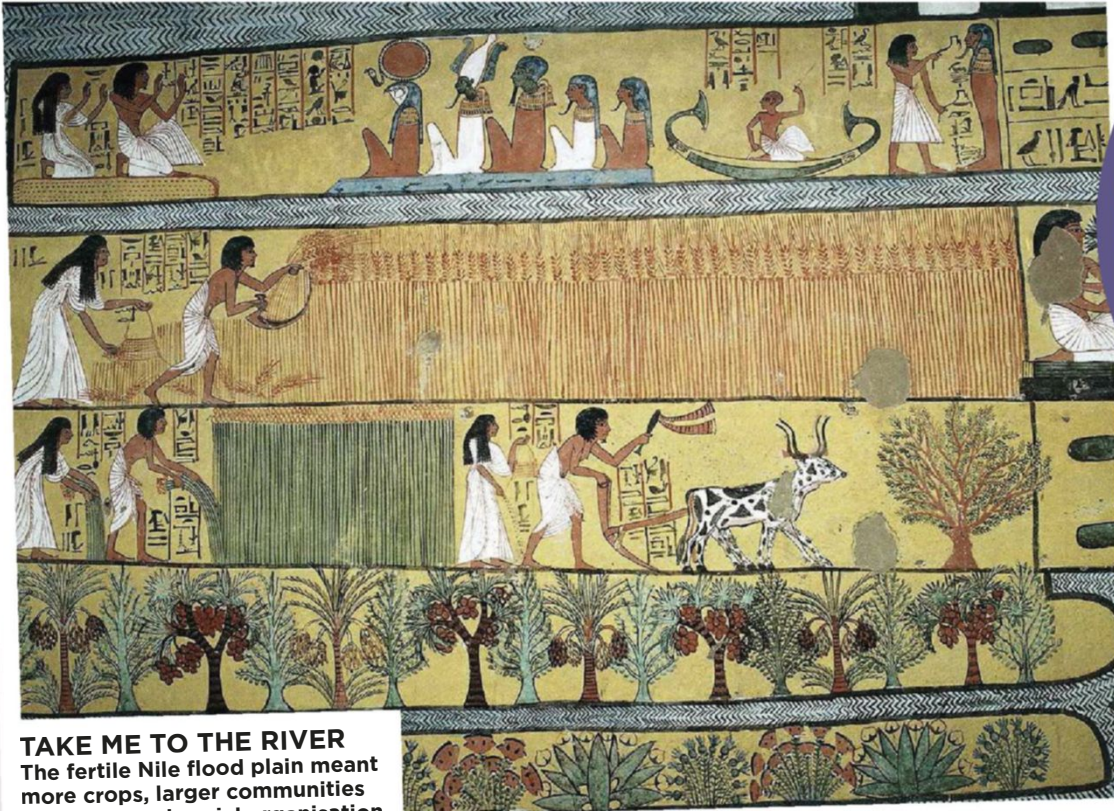
by raining hot coals and stones down upon their heads.

Women certainly took an active role in the defence of towns and cities. Thousands helped dig the defences of London when it was feared that the Royalists might attack the city at the end of 1642, and 400 women helped defend Lyme by putting out fires, standing guard, reloading muskets and even shooting at the royalist besiegers. When the royalists temporarily withdrew, the women ran out with picks and shovels and levelled the enemy earthworks. JH

ARE THERE ANY WOMEN HERE?


A few female troopers took part in combat and many defended their towns






TAKE ME TO THE RIVER
The fertile Nile flood plain meant more crops, larger communities and advanced social organisation

Why was Ancient Egypt so advanced, so early?

 In short: the river Nile. Just as with the early civilisations of the Indus, the Tigris and the Euphrates, it was the richly organic silt deposited during the annual flooding of a major water course that first attracted people to the Nile. Here they encountered an incredibly

fertile strip of land in which the crops necessary to sustain ever larger farming communities could be grown and increasing numbers of animals fed and watered. Advanced social organisation and monumental building soon followed. **MR**

WHAT IS IT?

 It's metal, has serrated edges and a ring for attaching a chain. It's unlikely, then, that this 17th century object has a happy history. This grim piece of ironware is actually a witch's collar, used to hold offenders by the neck and expose them in a public place for censure and ridicule.

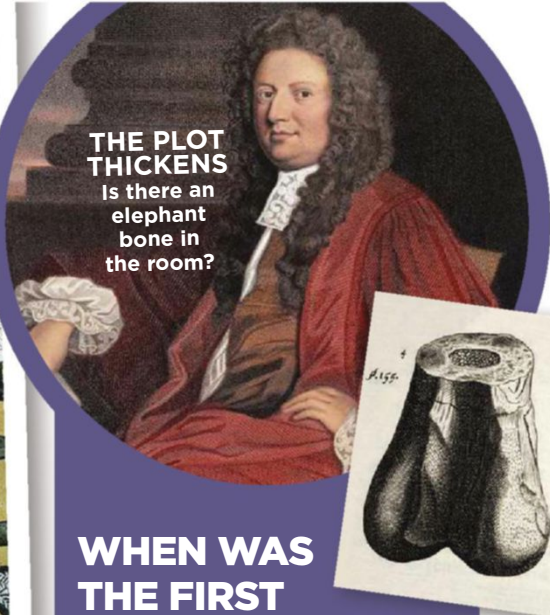
A chain would be attached to the ring and then fastened to a church wall or gate, post or tree. Witch's collars were used to punish people who had been tried before the local Kirk (Church of Scotland) Session and were common in Scotland from the 16th to the 18th century. This one, formerly owned by the parish of Ladybank in Fife, is on display at the Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh. www.nms.ac.uk




DID YOU KNOW? RADIOACTIVE

When historians read Marie Curie's personal papers they have to wear protective clothing against radiation poisoning.

THE PLOT THICKENS
Is there an elephant bone in the room?




WHEN WAS THE FIRST DINOSAUR FOSSIL DISCOVERED IN ENGLAND?

 In 1677, Reverend Dr Robert Plot published his *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, in which he described part of a 'gigantick' thigh bone unearthed in the parish of Cornwall. First, considering the possibility that it could have come from an elephant brought to England by the Romans, he later concluded that its shape suggested it must have belonged to a pre-Biblical man or woman of 'extravagant magnitude'. It is now thought that this was in fact the thigh of a megalosaurus. Fossil collecting had become a popular pastime by the late-1700s, but it wasn't until the early 19th century that palaeontology became a scientific pursuit. **EB**

NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS

Wondering about a particular historical happening? Get in touch - our expert panel has the answer!

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Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • BOOKS p92

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

EXHIBITION

Leonardo da Vinci

Open until 4 September at the Science Museum, London. Full details at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Leonardo da Vinci may be best known as the artist who painted the 'Mona Lisa', but there's much more to discover about this brilliant, insatiably curious engineer. **Leonardo da Vinci: the Mechanics of Genius** is the internationally-acclaimed, must-see exhibition of 2016. It's your chance to investigate both the facts and the misconceptions that surround the greatest genius of the Renaissance. This unique exhibition of astonishing creativity may leave you with more questions than answers.



Exhibition highlights include 39 models of Leo's inventions, interactive games and multimedia installations



ARCHIVIO MUSEO NAZIONALE DELLA SCIENZA E DELLA TECNOLOGIA, LEONARDO DA VINCI/ALESSANDRO NASSIRI XI



HH's mission is to bring truly gross facts and events to life via the medium of humour and song

THEATRE

Horrible Histories: Best of Barmy Britain

5 August to 3 September, Apollo Theatre, London. Tickets at www.barmybritain.com

Could you beat battling Boudicca? Will you lose your heart or your head to Henry VIII? Can Parliament survive gunpowder Guy? To celebrate the 5th anniversary of *Barmy Britain* in the West End, a special production of *Horrible Histories* opens at the Apollo Theatre. The energetic production and sparkingly clever script will keep kids and adults entertained for a fun-packed 70 minutes.

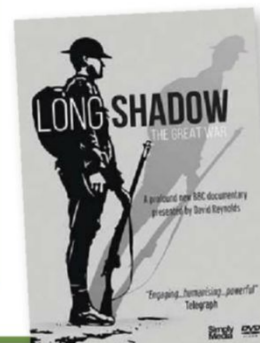
DVD

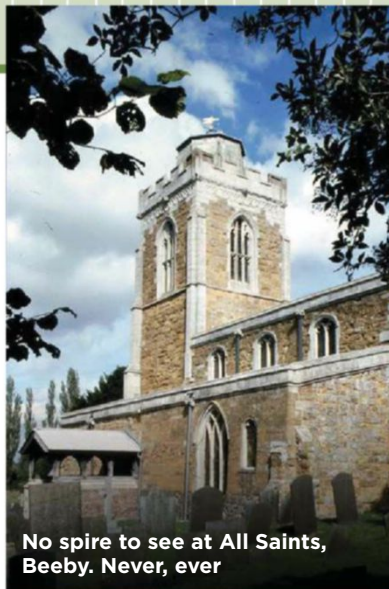
Long Shadow: the Great War

Major BBC series - DVD now available

Based on the prize-winning book *The Long Shadow*, historian David Reynolds explores the enduring impact of the Great War on our world and the shadow it has cast over Europe since the last shots

were finally fired. Drawing on years of research and a wealth of historical footage, it's an enthralling, sombre watch.





No spire to see at All Saints, Beeby. Never, ever

TOUR

Leicestershire and Rutland Treasures

26-27 August. Coach collects 11am Oakham railway station and returns 5pm the next day. Find out more at visitchurches.org.uk

View the 'sawn off' spire at All Saints, Beeby, and Norman carvings circa 1160 at St Peter, Allexton. Next, inspect ancient bells at St Mary the Virgin, Ayston, and enjoy a leisurely tour of Launde Abbey followed by a hearty dinner. And that's just day one!



The Cappella Nova choir

EVENT

Echoes and Traces

31 August to 7 September, various locations including Dunfermline Abbey historicenvironment.scot/echoes-and-traces

Castles and cathedrals are the setting for a series of world-premiere concerts of new choral works, performed by the choir Cappella Nova, and developed from a 900-year-old song fragment from Orkney. The text and melody of *Nobles Humilis* is one of the oldest surviving examples of Scottish music.



EVENT

Witches, warts and revolting rhymes are brought to life in a spectacular setting this summer

Roald Dahl at Rhuddlan Castle

Runs every Wednesday from 27 July to 31 August, 1-3pm. Find out more at cadw.gov.wales/events

The wickedly funny world of Roald Dahl is being brought to life on Wednesday afternoons during the school summer holidays at one of Wales's scariest-looking ruined castles. Rhuddlan Castle, near Llandudno, was constructed by Edward I in 1277 following the First Welsh War, and

has witnessed many battles throughout its 750-year history.

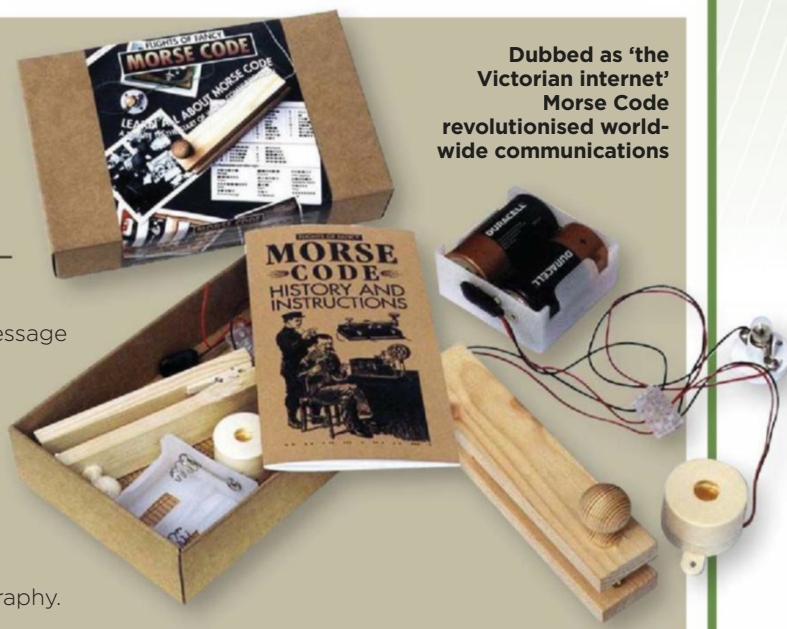
Dahl's dastardly tales of witches, warts and miraculous medicines are always enthralling, but young fans will find them simply spellbinding in such a setting. There are also themed activities to take part in.

TO BUY

Morse Code kit

£19.95 from Oxford University Shop at www.oushop.com

Invented by American Samuel Morse, the first Morse Code message was sent on 24 May 1844. With this Flights Of Fancy Morse Code kit, which includes a wooden tapper, light bulb, battery box and wire to make a working circuit, you can build your own transmission station. There's also a 24-page booklet on the history of telegraphy.



Dubbed as 'the Victorian internet' Morse Code revolutionised world-wide communications

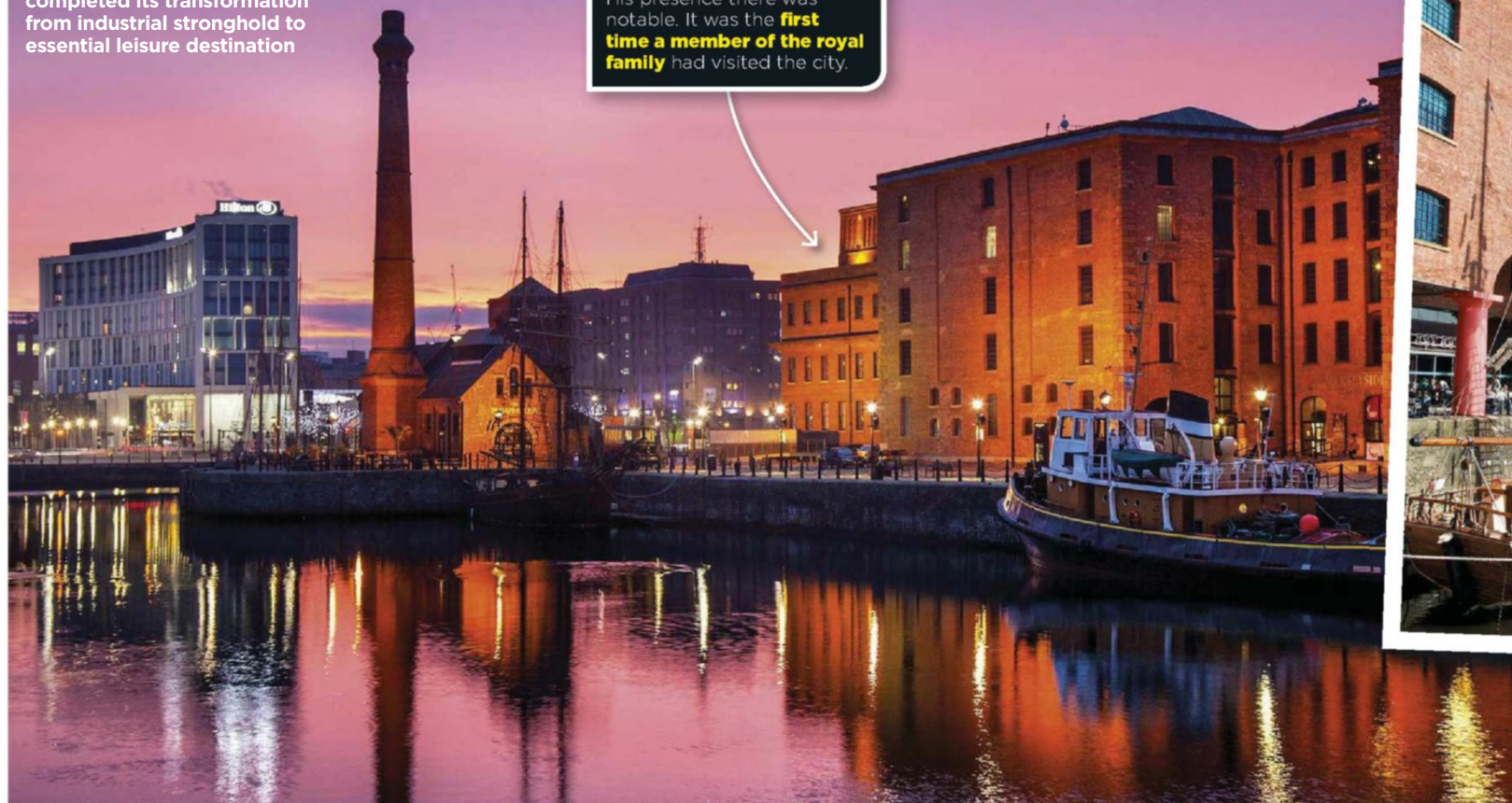
▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ Soak up the sights and sounds from centuries past at the Grand Medieval Mêlée at Cardiff Castle, held on specific dates throughout August. Details at www.cardiffcastle.com
- ▶ From 1-31 August at Hastings Abbey and Battlefield, the Summer of '66 event provides 66 fun things to do - from kids' battles to archery. More at www.english-heritage.org.uk

WARE-HOUSE
OF HANOVER

The dock takes its name from Queen Victoria's husband Albert, who officially opened it in 1846. His presence there was notable. It was the **first time a member of the royal family** had visited the city.

ON THE WATERFRONT
The Albert Dock has completed its transformation from industrial stronghold to essential leisure destination



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

ALBERT DOCK LIVERPOOL

With museums, galleries and restaurants housed in the largest group of Grade I-listed buildings in Britain, the iconic waterfront connects Liverpool's past to its future

GETTING THERE:

To get to the Albert Dock by car, follow the brown signs for 'Liverpool Waterfront' heading towards the city centre. It is a 20-minute walk from Liverpool's main station, Lime Street, or you can take the Merseyrail line to James Street Station and walk for five minutes. Buses are also available.

TIMES AND PRICES:

It is free to walk around at any time, but attractions may charge.

FIND OUT MORE:

Details of what's on can be found at www.albertdock.com



Prince Albert received a rapturous welcome at the banks of the River Mersey, as thousands swarmed to the waterfront just to glimpse their special guest. "There was a most brilliant display of flags [and] banners... All business is suspended," chimed *The Pictorial Times*. "All is gaiety and splendour." This day, 30 July 1846, marked the first official visit by a royal to Liverpool. The husband and Prince Consort of Queen Victoria had journeyed to Liverpool to open the newest dock, which would carry his name and revolutionise the port. Shipping had made Liverpool a key artery of Britain and its empire.

Yet, with the burdens caused by industrialisation and imperialism growing, facilities needed upgrading. Large ships couldn't get to the quayside, so cargo would be laboriously transferred to smaller boats and stored in wooden warehouses, which could catch fire. When engineer Jesse Hartley submitted plans for the new dock in 1839, he had worked out a solution to these problems.

Hartley made the process speedier and more secure, with ships able to lay up right next to the warehouses. And everything was built of fire-resistant cast iron, brick and stone. It took more than £700,000 (about £40 million

today), together with an estimated 23.5 million bricks and 47,000 tons of mortar, to build. For a few decades, the world's first enclosed, non-combustible dock warehouse system proved worth the effort and expenditure. Cotton, tea, tobacco, brandy, rum, ivory and sugar filled the warehouses, as well as 90 per cent of Liverpool's silk imports. Thanks to good ventilation and natural light, cargo could be held longer without being ruined.

HASTY DOWNFALL

The warehouses may have made the Albert Dock a prime shipping spot at first, but they also contributed to its hasty downfall.



HEY JUDY
For many years, the Albert Dock was the location of the studios of ITV's *This Morning*

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 WALKING TOURS

Two 90-minute tours are available around the dock. Try to spot Jesse Hartley's commemoration between the Maritime Museum and Tate Liverpool.



2 MARITIME MUSEUM

Voyage through the city's nautical history at this free museum. It explores Liverpool's link to the American Civil War, Battle of the Atlantic, *Lusitania* and *Titanic*.



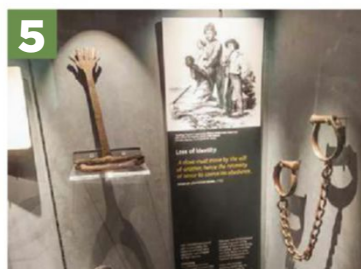
3 THE BEATLES STORY

An award-winning must-visit for fans of the Fab Four. You can book a spot on the Magical Mystery Tour, taking in Strawberry Fields and Penny Lane.



4 THE ECHO WHEEL

Near the Albert Dock, there's no chance you'll miss this waterside wheel, offering perhaps the best view of the city's landmarks from a height of 60 metres.



5 SLAVERY MUSEUM

A hard-hitting museum exploring the transatlantic slave trade and the legacy of slavery today. It is based in the original Dock Traffic Office, built in 1848.



6 THE PUMP HOUSE

With its distinctive tower, this friendly pub – which actually was the pumphouse – offers an ideal place to relax and enjoy a hearty meal.

“Cargo could be held longer without being ruined”

For all of Hartley's vision, the design of the square dock and its narrow entrance didn't allow for future developments of ship sizes and shapes; it could only accommodate sailing ships up to 1,000 tons. With the emergence of steam ships, which accounted for the majority of vessels at the dawn of the 20th century, the Albert Dock floundered. The shipping business had all but ended by the 1920s and the dock wouldn't be bustling again until World War II.

During the war, hundreds of military vessels were based at the dock, which the Admiralty requisitioned for the war effort. As Liverpool provided a supply line to the United States, these smaller, speedy ships acted as escorts to the merchant convoys bringing

vital goods to Britain. This made the city a target for the Luftwaffe, who destroyed whole sections of the dock in the 'May Blitz' of 1941. The dock owners made zero repairs due to financial problems.

SHUT UP SHOP

Over the next 30 years, the buildings fell further into disuse and decay – despite being granted Grade-I listed status in the early 1950s. The lowest point came in 1955, when only 68 ships made use of the dock. When containers became the norm in the shipping industry, the Albert Dock closed for business in 1972.

Liverpudlians may be loathe to admit this, but they have Margaret Thatcher's government to thank for giving the dock a second life.

Her 'Minister for Merseyside', Michael Heseltine, spearheaded the regeneration projects, the first phase of which coincided with two major events in the city in 1984 – the Tall Ships Race and the popular International Garden Festival. In 1988, like his distant relative nearly 150 years earlier, Prince Charles opened the Albert Dock to the sound of cheering.

Some five million people pay the dock a visit every year, enticed by its range of museums (see above). For kids, there's the new interactive adventure centre Mattel Play!, or simply sit back at one of the many restaurants and bars to take in the view. Small wonder that Liverpool's waterfront recently topped England's 'Great Places' awards. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

Venture further than the Albert Dock, and you'll find plenty to see and do...

THE THREE GRACES

Just minutes away are three landmarks defining the local skyline – the Cunard Building, the Port of Liverpool Building and the Royal Liver Building. www.royalliverbuilding.com

MERSEY FERRIES

These 50-minute cruises come with a history-filled commentary and there are stops so you can explore the city. www.merseyferries.co.uk

U-BOAT STORY

Across the Mersey on the Wirral (so combine a visit with a ferry trip) is a fantastic interactive exhibition with a real U-Boat as the centrepiece. www.u-boatstory.co.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

This month's best historical books

The Radium Girls

By Kate Moore

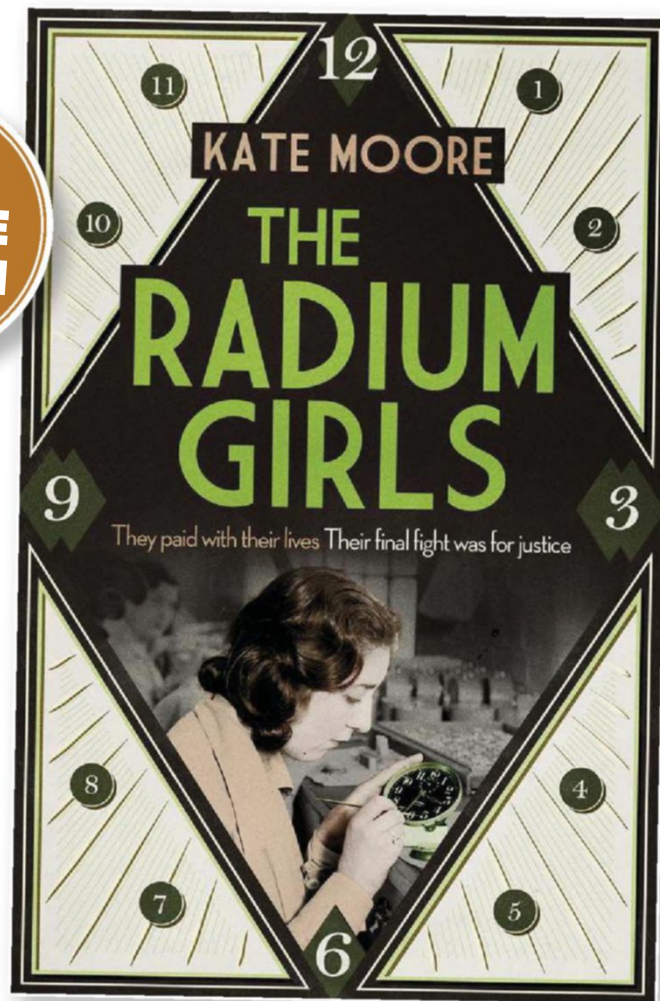
Simon & Schuster, £16.99,
465 pages, hardback

BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

By following the lives of some early-20th-century teenage girls employed in American factories, Kate Moore pays tribute to their extraordinary, heartbreaking story. Their well-paid job was to paint clocks and dials with a paint made from radium. Told the glowing substance was harmless, these 'radium girls' licked their brushes and daubed paint on their faces, nails and teeth. But years went by and the glamour of using the paint, which made them glow in the dark, faded to reveal a darker truth – the radium was killing them, slowly and painfully.

As Moore intimately describes in the first book-length telling of their story, their quest for justice was greeted at every turn by denials and smears. Yet they fought on. Their inspiring story is told through diaries, interviews with relatives and court transcripts, revealing ordinary women who became pioneers for workers' rights.

"Their quest for justice was greeted at every turn by denials and smears"



Young American women loved their job painting clocks and dials, but they didn't know the substances they used made them sick, or worse



MEET THE AUTHOR

Kate Moore gives a voice to the young American women who lost their lives working as ‘radium girls’, being poisoned by supposedly harmless substances

Who were the ‘radium girls’, and how did you first find out about them?

The radium girls were American women living in the ‘Roaring Twenties’, who were poisoned by their work as radium dial-painters. For years, they courageously fought for justice after their employers refused to admit responsibility and continued to put further lives at risk.

I discovered their story when I began directing a play about them. As I researched the truth behind the script, I realised that no book existed that focused on the women and told their story using first-person accounts – I wrote *The Radium Girls* to give them a voice after all these years.

At what point did these women start becoming ill, and how did their employers react?

The majority of women worked as dial-painters during World War I, but the first serious illnesses didn’t really kick in until years later. At first, the women thought that they were simply run-down and had ordinary toothache, but in 1922, the first dial-painter died after immense suffering as the radium ate into her jawbones and teeth. She was the first to die, but not the last.

When they realised the similarities in their symptoms, the women grouped together to confront their employers. The only link between them was that they had worked together, and the radium firms refused to admit responsibility.

Not just that, they employed doctors to lie to the women, concealed expert reports that proved they had harmed them, and fought the women every step of the way, smearing their reputations and trying everything they could to ensure they would

not be found culpable. The radium industry was extremely lucrative and the women’s employers were determined to protect it at all costs.

What compelled the women to keep fighting in the face of such resistance?

I think there were multiple reasons. Blunt necessity for one, as the women were penniless. They had been crippled not just physically but financially, from the huge medical bills incurred because of the poisoning. Their only hope for survival was to win a payout. Yet it was about civic-mindedness too, as the radium firms were continuing to put lives at risk.

Some fought for sisters, cousins and friends who had already been killed. Others fought on simply because it was the right thing to do. In the end, it was as much a moral as a legal battle.

What does this episode tell us about the period generally, and does it have any lessons for us today?

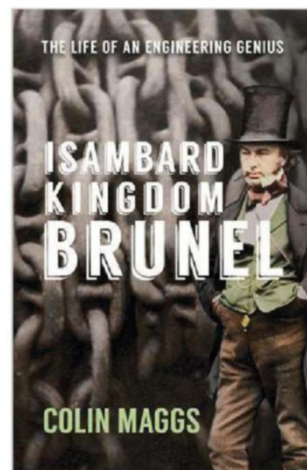
It showcases how women were marginalised and undervalued at that time. Radium

poisoning didn’t begin to be investigated seriously by specialists until a male employee died.

This isn’t simply a story of women fighting for justice, however, but of workers standing up for their rights, and on this level we still have a lot to learn today. While no workers these days will die from radium poisoning like the radium girls, the way in which companies can consider themselves above the law and are not always held to account for killing or harming workers is sadly all too familiar.



“Doctors were employed to lie to the women, and expert reports were concealed”

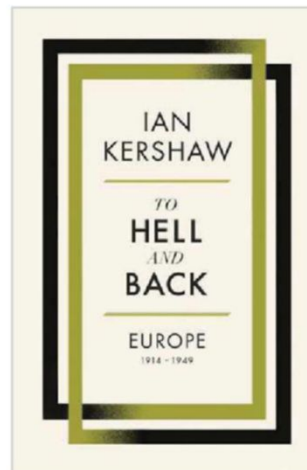


Isambard Kingdom Brunel: the Life of an Engineering Genius

By Colin Maggs

Amberley Publishing, £20, 336 pages, hardback

Brunel may be the great engineer, but this pacy biography delves beyond the impressive list of professional successes and into his personal flaws. What emerges in Maggs’s revealing account is a pioneer who made mistakes, but never admitted to being wrong.



To Hell and Back: Europe, 1914-1949

By Ian Kershaw

Penguin, £12.99, 624 pages, paperback

The renowned historian Ian Kershaw gives a masterful account of the two World Wars, the interwar years and their seismic legacy. If you want to understand why World War I took such a toll, or how the 1940s shaped Europe today, this is the place to start. Kershaw is analytical and thorough without *To Hell and Back* ever being a dry and heavy read.



Wittenberg, 1517: a monk nails a sheet of paper to a church door and changes the course of western history forever. Martin Luther is the subject of Professor Lyndal Roper's refreshingly frank biography, which explores the man's character, his influence on the Protestant Reformation and why his views were so radical.



With first-hand accounts and a wealth of striking images, Hewitt takes a huge (and well-covered) event of the 20th century – the D-Day landings of 6 June 1944 – and tells it through experiences from just one of the thousands of ships' crews that took part. It's a humanising and often moving take.



Stretching across a vast expanse of time and space, China's history can seem a daunting prospect for a book. Yet by hinging on a central theme – the vital importance of people's access to water – Ball can journey from the ancient dynasties to Chairman Mao and offer a concise and evocative look at a diverse nation and its people.

The Fun of the Fifties: Ads, Fads and Fashions

Children play with the latest construction toys while women stand proudly in front of gleaming new fridges. The 1950s are brought vividly to life in this nostalgic history of the cultural highs (and, to modern eyes, a fair few lows) of a decade.



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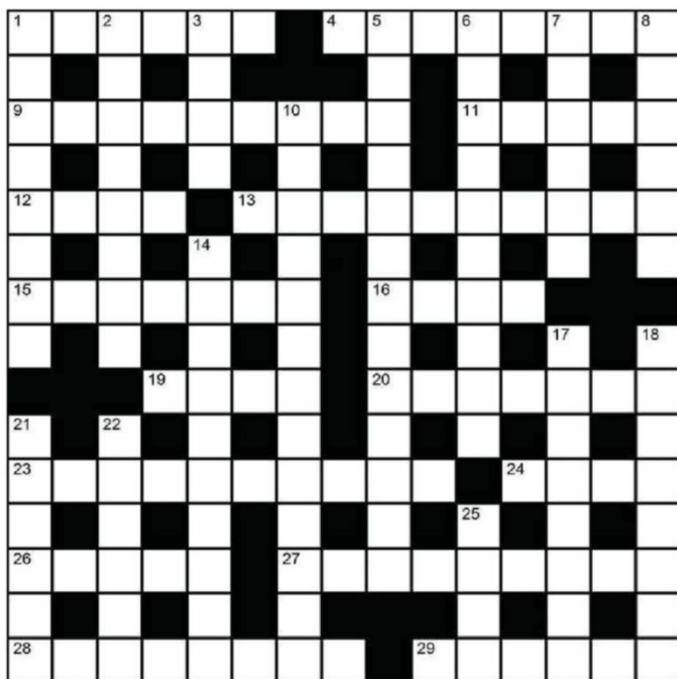
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CROSSWORD N° 32

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1** Iconic, top-grossing arcade game released in 1980 (3-3)
4 Tobias ____ (1721-1771), Scottish satirical novelist (8)
9 US Presidential retreat built in Maryland, originally named 'Shangri-La' by FDR (4,5)
11 Northern Spanish city, burned during civil wars in the 14th century (5)
12 Sir Henry ____ (1869-1944), English conductor associated with the Proms (4)
13 Alfred von ____ (1833-1913), strategist who developed the plan to give Germany a quick victory in World War I (10)
15 US city built on the site of Fort Dearborn, officially founded in 1833 (7)

- 16** The ship used by Norwegian polar explorers, most notably Roald Amundsen (4)
19 Legendary ape-like creature, supposed to live in the Himalayas (4)
20 Pulitzer Prize-winning 1938 play by Thornton Wilder (3,4)
23 One of the largest cities in Chile, struck by earthquakes in 1939 and 1953 (10)
24 Historical title for an official of the republic of Venice (4)
26 "Words are but the signs of ____" – dictionary writer Samuel Johnson, 1755 (5)
27 Ancient symbol depicting a serpent eating its own tail (9)
28 Prospecting craze, most famously in California (4,4)

- 29** A monster in Greek myth, father of Cerberus (watchdog of the underworld) and the multi-headed Hydra (6)

DOWN

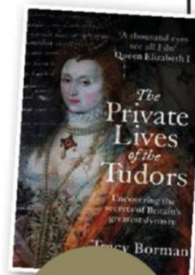
- 1** Samuel ____, Dickensian hero, "the very personification of kindness and humanity" (8)
2 Asian country ruled by the Communist movement Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 (8)
3 1871 opera by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi (4)
5 US military decoration, first awarded during the American Civil War (5,2,6)
6 John ____ (1888-1946), bespectacled Scottish pioneer of television (5,5)
7 Nickname (meaning 'the Boss') of Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo (2,4)
8 The ____, 1976 thriller by Roman Polanski (6)
10 Highest military decoration in the British armed forces, established in 1856 (8,5)
14 Belgian surreal painter and printmaker (1860-1949) (5,5)
17 In the Bible, one of the sinful 'cities of the plain' (8)
18 Gerry ____ (1929-2012), British puppeteer, television writer and producer (8)
21 Ancient Chinese divination text, also known as the Book of Changes (1,5)
22 Sir Norman ____ (1872-1967), English Nobel Peace Prize winner, author of *The Great Illusion* (1910) (6)
25 "To ____ is better than sacrifice" – from the Bible, Samuel 15:22 (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

The Private Lives of the Tudors

by Tracy Borman

With a fresh take on a well-covered area, Tracy Borman peeps behind closed doors to reveal the secrets of the endlessly fascinating, dysfunctional royal family. Published by Hodder & Stoughton, £25.

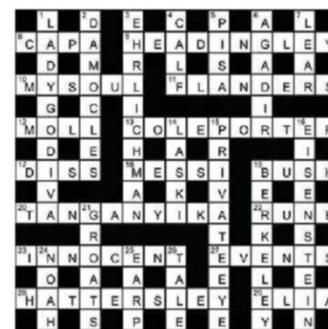


BOOK WORTH £25 FOR THREE WINNERS

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, August 2016 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **august2016@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **17 August 2016**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION N° 30



CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited

NEXT MONTH
ON SALE 18 AUGUST

.....

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

How the catastrophic blaze of 1666 cleansed
the capital and led to its rebirth



ALSO NEXT MONTH...

THE BERLIN WALL MICHELANGELO AND THE
SISTINE CHAPEL **NEFERTITI: THE EGYPTIAN**
QUEEN WHO KILLED THE GODS THE CONQUEST
OF AMERICA **JAMES DEAN** IDI AMIN **THE BOER**
WARS CHAIRMAN MAO **Q&A** AND MORE...

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A-Z of History

Uncovering the unusual, uproarious and unbelievable, **Nige Tassell** updates our ultimate utopia of the unique

USHERING IN THE UPPER 'U'

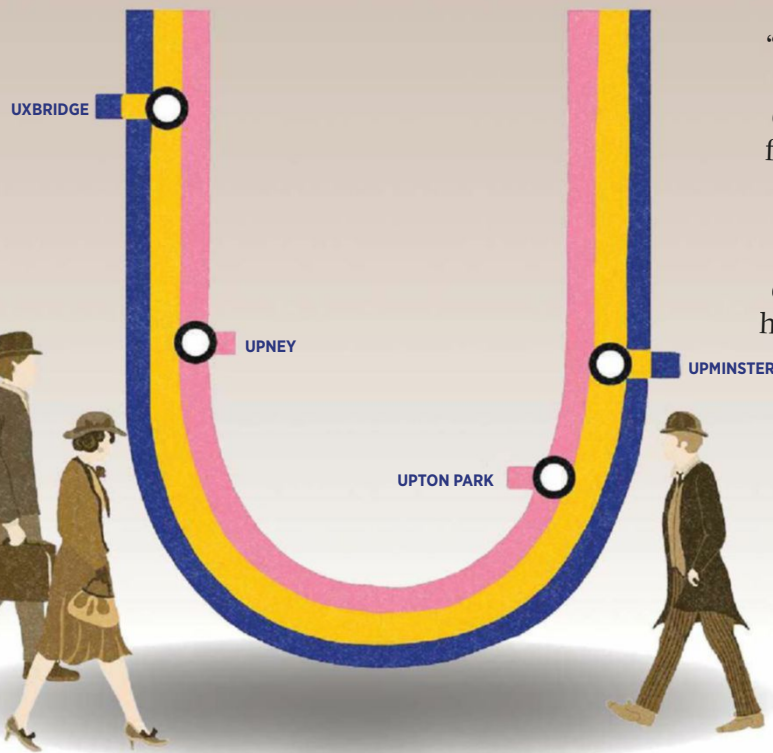
Until 1629, the capital 'U' didn't exist in any language. A 'V' was used instead, despite the lower-case variant of 'u' being in use for at least a century. The change finally came about after a man named Lazare Zetzner began using an upper 'U' in his Strasbourg print shop.

UN-DER DRESSED

The name of the United Nations was not only decided on in a bathroom, but one of those present happened to be naked. In December 1941, while on a visit to Washington DC, Prime Minister Winston Churchill enjoyed a bath at the White House when President Franklin Roosevelt wheeled himself to the side of the bathtub in his wheelchair. The pair discussed what the Allied countries should officially be called and FDR suggested the 'United Nations'. The name was appropriated in 1945 when the UN was formed.

Useful uniforms

When the Metropolitan Police was established in 1829, its first uniforms included top hats that had been reinforced by cane so that officers could stand on them to see over walls and fences. The officers' tail coats also had high collars to reduce the chance of being garrotted while on patrol.



UNDERGROUND UNDERPAYMENT

The iconic tube map was created in 1931 by a London Underground draughtsman called Harry Beck. Working in his spare time, Beck never received the financial reward that his radical and enduring design deserved. He was paid not a penny more than ten guineas for his creation.

UBER-ULTRA RUNNING

Ultra running is growing in popularity today, but is far from a new invention. In 1585, the monks of Mount Hiei, Japan, established the pursuit of running 1,000 marathons in 1,000 days, with any monks completing the mission being regarded as living deities. The tradition still exists, although only 46 have succeeded in the last 130 years.

UNDERHAND U-BOATS

"The construction or acquisition of any submarine, even for commercial purposes, shall be forbidden in Germany," so read the 1919 Treaty of Versailles as it banned the possessing of U-boats. By the outbreak of World War II 20 years later, however, the German navy had around 60 such vessels.

Uruguay unveiled

In 1825, Uruguay declared itself independent of colonial rule, after which its official name became known as *La República Oriental del Uruguay* – or the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. This is its official name today. It comes from the fact that the country sits on the eastern shore of the Uruguay River.

URBAN UPGRADE

At just 12 days, his time in the papacy remains the shortest ever. But even during that brief reign in September 1590, Pope Urban VII introduced the world's first smoking ban, threatening any users of tobacco with excommunication.

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